

LIBRARY
BRINIA
U. A. C. NO. 4441
LIBRARY

MILLIONS ON THE MOVE

THE AFTERMATH OF PARTITION

MODERN SERIES

Issued by the
Publications Division,
Ministry of Information and Broadcasting,
Government of India,
Delhi.

CONTENTS

	Page
I The Background	... 1
II Millions on the Move	... 5
III Reception & Relief	... 11
IV Rehabilitation	... 19
V Some Thoughts on Urban Rehabilitation	... 31
VI Governments, States and Voluntary Organisations	... 44
Appendix	... 68



"Nearly the whole of India celebrated the coming of Independence but not so the unhappy land of the five rivers. In the Punjab, both in the East and the West, there was disaster and sorrow. There was mass murder and arson and looting in many places and streams of refugees poured out from one place to another."

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru.

CHAPTER I

THE BACKGROUND

EXACTLY a year before the transfer of power took place, there began with the Great Calcutta Killing of August 16, 1946, the sorry tale of mass murder and arson which was to be followed by the tragic events of Noakhali and Bihar. One disaster followed another, each producing a reaction in a different part of the country. The Frontier Province boiled up and Rawalpindi became for some months the worst affected area in the country. All this happened before the question of partition was decided finally and it was hoped that once a decision had been taken, it would mark the end of further trouble. However, uncertainty about the exact line of demarcation between the Dominions of India and Pakistan caused further deterioration in the situation and Lahore paid a heavy price for the political differences of its citizens. After August 15, 1947, the position became worse in both East and West Punjab and the mass migration of minorities began.

The task of handling the evacuation of such large masses of men, women and children, fleeing their homes for very life from towns and villages all over West Punjab first,—and then the North-West Frontier Province and Sind—fell on the Government of India on the morrow of the transfer of power. So various were the problems involved in this task and so promptly did the Government face them, that, in the discharge of this function, its organisational machinery has grown vast and complex. The establishment of liaison between the Governments of India and Pakistan for the co-ordination of transfer of evacuees, the Military Evacuation Organisation of the Government of India, the Emergency Committee of the Cabinet, and the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation, are all stages in the growth of this machinery.

Overwhelming Difficulties

The Government had not anticipated the outbreak of disturbances on such a vast scale,—38,00,000 non-Muslims of West Punjab and nearly 40,00,000 Muslims of East Punjab were affected. Moreover, the disturbances occurred at a time

when the Indian Union was faced with serious administrative difficulties. The Central Government did not possess the necessary administrative machinery to tackle the problem, and the newly formed Government of East Punjab was seriously handicapped by lack of essential equipment. Cities in East Punjab, including such vital centres as Amritsar and Jullundur, could not be reached by telegraph or telephone and, as for the railways, they had a preponderance of Muslim drivers. Even less was contact possible with West Punjab. From this province there was an ominous absence of news when disturbances had already broken out in East Punjab. The division of the Army was taking place, the Boundary Force was still in charge and agreement had not been reached between the Dominions on the right to help the minorities across their respective borders.

Beset with such difficulties, the first thing the Government did was to get into touch with the Governments of Pakistan and West Punjab so that the problems affecting the security and movement of non-Muslims from West Punjab could be discussed and the necessary measures introduced without delay. Liaison was established with the Punjab Boundary Force. The Prime Minister and other Ministers paid frequent visits to a number of towns in East Punjab and Lahore in order to study the conditions at first hand and to set the machinery of evacuation in motion. Frequent meetings of the Joint Defence Council were held and important decisions were taken with regard to the rapid reduction of the area controlled by the Punjab Boundary Force, the non-recognition by the Government of the seizure of property belonging to the refugees, the appointment of a Deputy High Commissioner in Lahore, arrangements for the transport of refugees from Lahore to Amritsar and Amritsar to Lahore by train and lorry and the provision of accommodation and food for the refugees.

The First Measures

The restoration of communications in East Punjab was given a very high priority. Regular air services between Delhi, Jullundur and Amritsar were arranged three times a week in the first instance. Important towns in East Punjab were linked with Delhi by telegraph and telephone, and direct telegraphic and telephonic communication was established between Delhi and Lahore.

While the evacuation of refugees was being organised, the Government had to make immediate arrangements for the provision of relief to the refugees pouring into East Punjab. A grant of Rs. 5,00,000 was sanctioned for the East Punjab

Government and another Rs. 5,00,000 for the Delhi Administration to arrange for relief. The Government of India rushed medical personnel and supplies, foodstuffs, tents and petrol to Amritsar. The Governor of East Punjab made Jullundur his headquarters and a number of relief camps were opened in important centres in the province.

The question of evacuating non-Muslims from West Punjab by air and by civil and military lorries under proper escort was next taken up with the Government of Pakistan. Arrangements were made to organise evacuation by air from distant towns such as Sialkot, Rawalpindi and Multan as well as intermediate points like Gujranwala and Lyallpur. Air services between Delhi and Lahore were duplicated with a halt at Amritsar. Immediately began the mobilisation of aircraft and civilian and military vehicles, the latter to concentrate in important places like Amritsar, Batala and Ferozepur from where road convoys into West Punjab were organised. At the same time separate organisations were set up for evacuation and relief.

The Government of East Punjab was assured of every possible financial and administrative help by the Government of India. The Deputy Prime Minister offered the services of as many as 40 Administrative Officers. The provision of foodstuffs and tinned milk was arranged as well as medical supplies and doctors. To keep the refugees in Jullundur, Amritsar, Lahore and Ferozepur informed, the distribution of 20,000 copies of newspapers in various languages was organised by air. All-India Radio began to broadcast messages for refugees and a special news bulletin for East Punjab.

Dominion Premiers Visit Affected Areas

On August 29, the Joint Defence Council which met at Lahore decided to abolish the Punjab Boundary Force from the midnight of August 31. The following day, the Prime Ministers of India and Pakistan and the Defence Minister of India, and a Minister of Pakistan, began to tour the disturbed areas both in West and East Punjab. As each Dominion became responsible for the maintenance of law and order within its own borders after August 31, further steps were taken to provide protection for the stranded minorities in West Punjab, and to accelerate the movement of refugees. Evacuation by air was speeded up by organising daily services to Peshawar, Quetta and Rawalpindi, and by introducing additional services for Lahore and Karachi. Facilities were provided for private individuals to charter planes to evacuate refugees from Sialkot,

Sargodha, Lyallpur and Dera Ismail Khan. For the organisation and co-ordination of the air services the Government appointed a special officer called the Controlling Authority, Air Transport for Refugees. The evacuation of officials stranded in West Punjab was undertaken by 12 R.A.F. Dakotas flying between Lahore and Delhi and making two trips a day.

The most important step taken by the Government of India was, in consultation with the Government of Pakistan, to provide Indian troops to escort non-Muslims from West to East Punjab by rail, road and on foot. A new military organisation called the Military Evacuation Organisation was set up to run refugee trains from East to West Punjab and back under escort, to have non-Muslim refugee camps in West Punjab protected by Indian troops, to organise and protect road convoys, to provide mobile escorts for the large marching columns, to carry food to refugee camps in West Punjab suffering from the shortage of food, and to look after refugees stranded in many parts of that province. This organisation began to work towards the end of the first week of September.

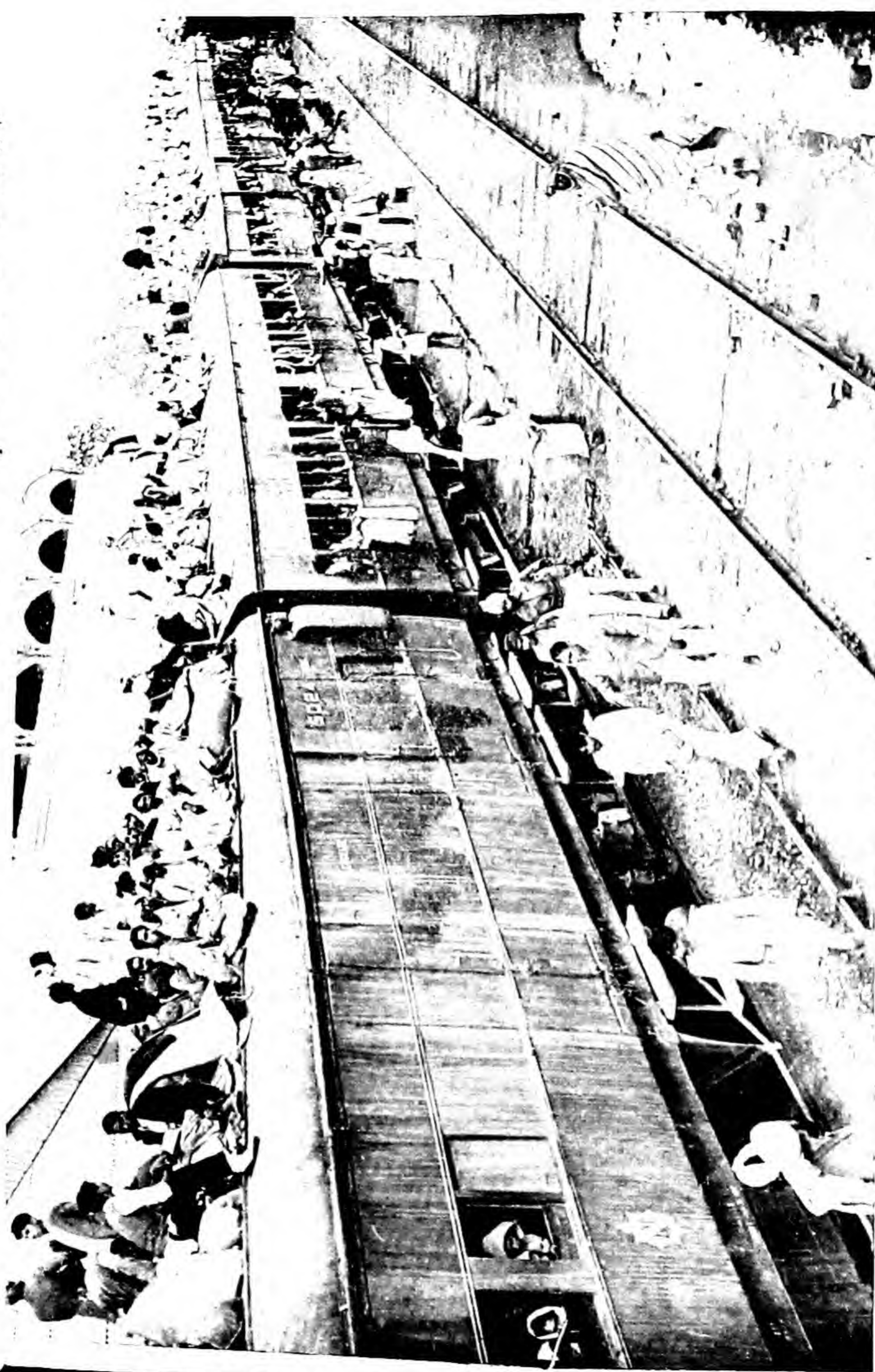
Liaison with the Governments of Pakistan and East Punjab was further strengthened by making Lahore the Headquarters of the Fourth Indian Division and by appointing officers in as many districts as possible to assist evacuees and to maintain contact with the local authorities.



goni-
ment
rity,
and-
ring

dia
ide
iab
led
ree
ve
an
ile
ee
nd
ce.
rst

ab
rs
as
in



A refugee special train. Men and women are huddled together not only inside the compartments, but have scrambled over to the top as well.



A refugee special train at Ambala station. The lucky owner of this thin bamboo ladder charges two annas a trip to the top of the goods wagon.

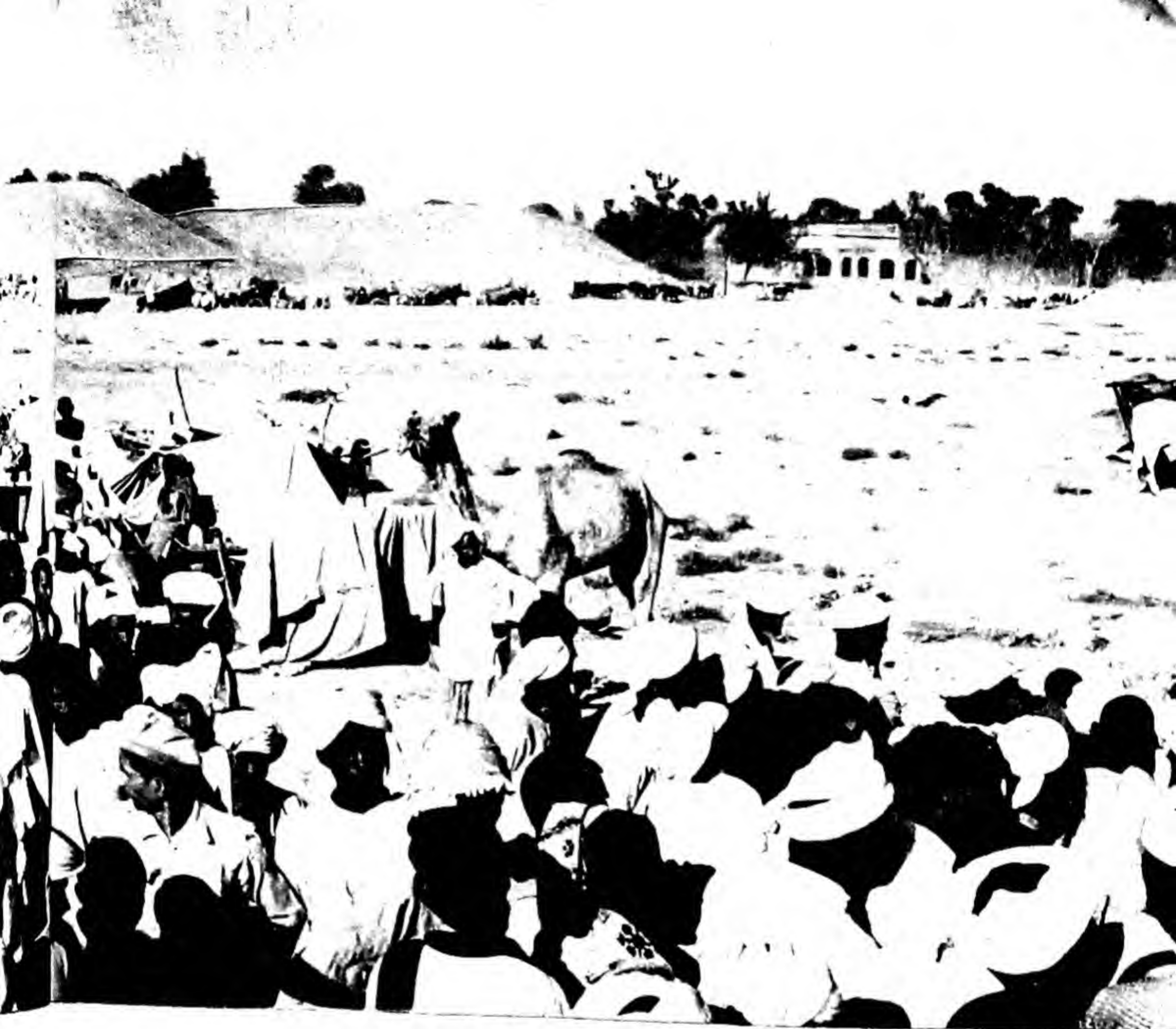


Non-Muslims awaiting air-evacuation from Multan to Ambala.

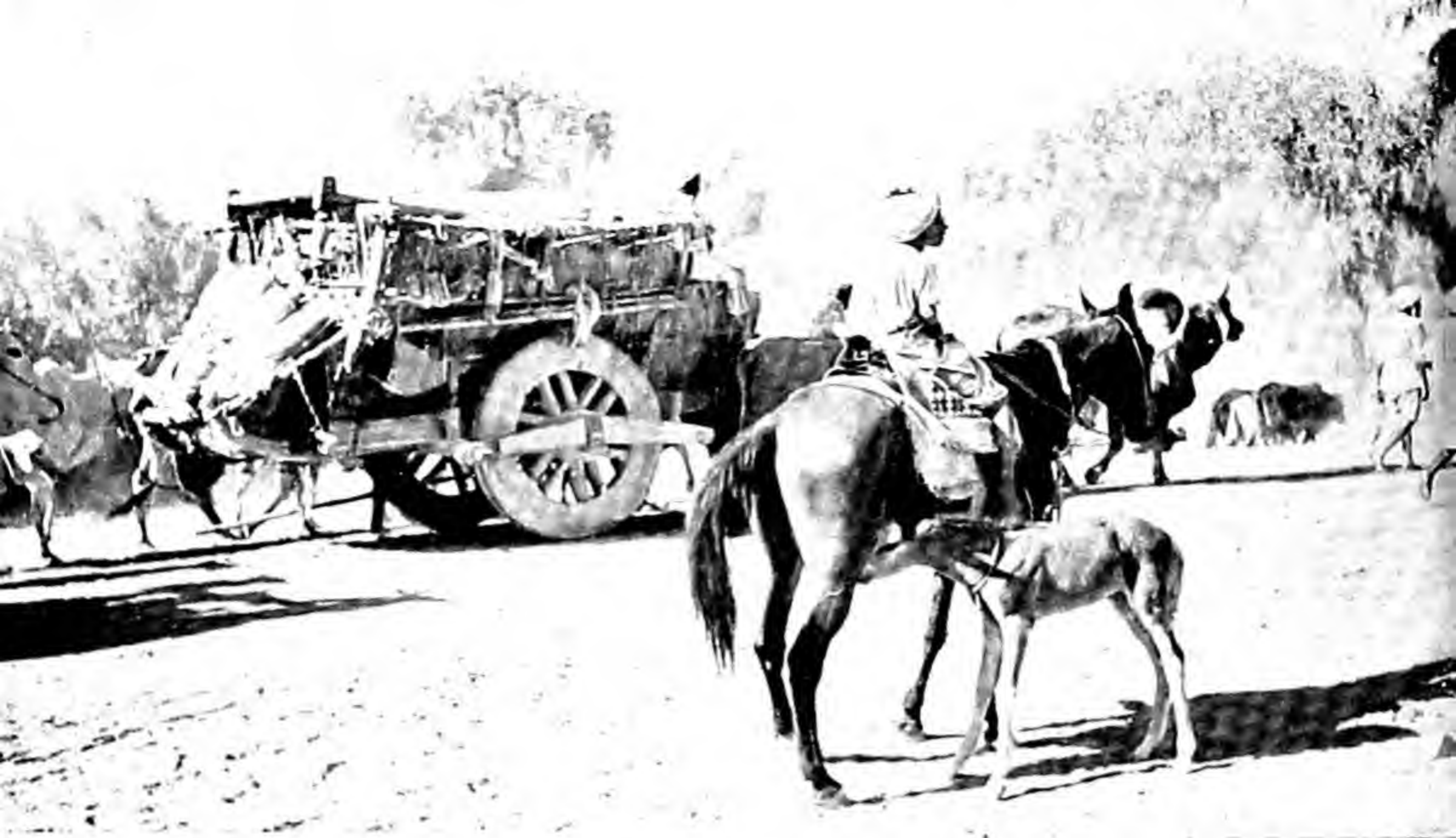
A Sikh officer of the escorting troops helps a bullock cart driver to catch his bullock under the *jua*.







The picture shows two opposite streams of migration. In the foreground is a Muslim concentration, while a non-Muslim convoy of lorries and bullock carts can be seen within a few hundred yards in the background.



Non-Muslim refugees on the move

Part of non-Muslim foot column. The column moves steadily towards the border. An old lady carries a pail of water for drinking purpose.





Every available form of transport was used for evacuation—motor-buses, tongas, bullock cart—as may be seen in this picture.

Hari Ram with his two children on his way to India from Pakistan. He leads the bicycle as the chain has snapped and there is no room to ride.

yards
ose.





Refugees piled high on motor trucks.

The foot column moves on—carts, cattle, donkeys, dogs, men, women, boys, girls, babies, bicycles, baggage—all under a constant pall of dust.



"One of the greatest mass migrations of history is now nearing its completion, as the 4,00,000 foot convoy of the uprooted non-Muslim population of the most fertile areas in West Punjab is pouring over the Pakistan border into India. The convoy was organised by the colonists of Lyallpur when life and property became unsafe. Leaving their ancestral holdings, the canal-irrigated fields, they came with what they could carry and driving before them selected heads from their live-stock. With them came petty shop-keepers, artisans, village menials and the once-rich landlords and businessmen, lawyers and doctors. Even some village dogs, rather than stay in deserted villages, attached themselves to their human companions."—A newspaper item dated October 6, 1947.

CHAPTER II

MILLIONS ON THE MOVE

FLEEING from towns and villages close to the Indo-Pakistan border, non-Muslims began to enter India in large numbers in small disorganised parties towards the end of August and the early part of September, 1947. Later, when the Indian army began to help them, huge foot convoys, each 30,000 to 40,000 strong, started upon a 150-mile march from the fertile colonies of Lyallpur and Montgomery districts. Thus in 42 days (September 18 to October 29), 24 non-Muslim foot columns, 8,49,000 strong, with hundreds of bullock-carts and heads of cattle, had crossed the border into India.

The movement of these columns raised problems of baffling complexity. When the supply of food failed, the Government of India had to drop cooked food as well as food-grains and sugar by R.I.A.F. planes which flew from Amritsar and Delhi to Jaranwala, Lyallpur, Churkhana, Dhabhansingh-wala, Balloki headworks and Bhai Pheru. Drugs, vaccines and doctors were rushed by air and motor transport. A field ambulance unit was sent to Raiwind to inoculate refugees before they crossed the border. On the way the columns were often attacked and sometimes suffered heavy casualties. Women and children were abducted, and unauthorised search deprived them of the few valuables they carried. The columns suffered at the hands of not only man but also nature. Exposure and devastating floods thinned their ranks. Nevertheless, the determined caravan moved on.

Next to foot columns, trains carried the largest number of refugees. About 673 refugee trains were run between August 27 and November 6, 1947 and they were responsible for the movement of over 23,00,000 of refugees inside India and across the border. Of these 13,62,000 were non-Muslims and 9,39,000

Muslims. With the restoration of rail communications after the floods and the abatement of heavy movement of refugees, it was possible to run 16 skeleton trains on alternate days on the branch lines of the East Punjab Railway. Like the foot columns, the refugee trains also were attacked by armed mobs in East and West Punjab, necessitating heavy military protection, the introduction of stern measures against the villages through which the trains passed, the imposition of collective fines and curfew in the affected areas along the railway lines. Thanks to these measures attacks on the refugee trains were checked.

Motor transport was used primarily to collect non-Muslims stranded in villages and other small pockets and also to bring them to railheads. In one month alone 1,000,000 gallons of petrol were used in the East Punjab area, mostly by the Military Evacuation Organisation (India).

It was towards the end of August that the Government decided to provide facilities for the transport of refugees by air from different points in Pakistan. Accordingly, ten aircraft belonging to various Indian Transport Companies were mobilised. On an average six to seven aircraft operated daily from Delhi to transport refugees from Sargodha, Lyallpur, Multan and Rawalpindi. In addition, scheduled air services between Delhi and Karachi, Quetta, Lahore, Rawalpindi and Peshawar were intensified.

Up to November 21, over 32,000 refugees were flown in both directions by scheduled or chartered aircraft, over 21,000 of them being non-Muslims. Nearly 600,000 gallons of aviation spirit were used every month for evacuation purposes. Since little help was forthcoming from the local administration, the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation appointed Liaison Officers at each air station in Pakistan, making them responsible for determining priorities and arranging the carriage of passengers to airports.

The evacuation of non-Muslims from Sind has been proceeding by sea and rail. In addition to the regular Persian Gulf Line steamers of the British India Steam Navigation Company, which pick up evacuees from Karachi on their way to Bombay, nine steamers have been chartered by the Government of India, but clearance from Karachi is restricted to only 2,000 a day, as the port authorities have pleaded inability to handle more. By November 21, nearly 133,000 non-Muslim evacuees had been cleared from Sind by steamer and country craft. From Hyderabad (Sind) two trains have been running daily carrying non-Muslim refugees to Jodhpur.

This migration of millions would not have been possible without reasonably satisfactory means of communication, viz., railways, posts, telegraphs and telephones, which were completely disrupted when partition took place on August 15. With Lahore, the nerve-centre of all communications, gone, links between Delhi and the main towns of East Punjab were broken. The highest priority was, therefore, given to the restoration of communications in East Punjab. Direct channels were established with Amritsar, Jullundur, Ferozepur and Ambala. Three carrier telephone channels and six carrier telegraphic channels connected Jullundur and Delhi. The carrier link to Amritsar, which was completed on November 6, has now two carrier telephone channels and six telegraphic channels. Mails were despatched to East Punjab towns by the goods and refugee trains. In addition, special motor mail lines were opened to operate by road. A specially chartered air mail service was introduced between Delhi, Gurdaspur, Ambala, Jullundur and Ferozepur and it was connected with the motor mail service from Delhi to Rohtak, Hissar and Gurgaon, from Ambala to Simla and Karnal, and from Jullundur to Ludhiana and Hoshiarpur.

Owing to the partition, the East Punjab Railway had been crippled by lack of staff, but the Railway Board met the situation by calling for volunteer crews from other railways. To cope with the rapidly approaching winter, a special organisation consisting of representatives of Military Evacuation Organisations and Railways of both the Dominions was set up to control, co-ordinate and speed up evacuation by rail.

The Indian Army Does A Splendid Job

This colossal movement of refugees would not have been possible without the magnificent aid given by the Indian Army and the Royal Indian Air Force. From September 1, the Indian Army took over the duties of evacuating non-Muslims from West Punjab, and the Pakistan Army became similarly responsible for the evacuation of Muslims from East Punjab. The collection of refugees, arrangements for camping them, removing them by road, rail and motor transport, locating them in camps at destination, giving them transport of food and medical supplies—in all these and other matters, the Indian Army and the RIAF set up a fine record of achievement. Officers and men were subjected to prolonged fatigue, to moral and physical strain, and frequently to a not inconsiderable measure of physical danger. In escorting refugee trains alone one officer and three non-commissioned officers were killed

and one officer and four Indian Other Ranks wounded. The Indian Army raised motor transport companies, loaned officers to the East Punjab Government for administrative work, provided equipment for camps, and offered assistance in numerous other ways.

In the first week of September, the evacuation of refugees from West Punjab was taken over by a new Command of the Army—the Military Evacuation Organisation—with headquarters at Amritsar. The M.E.O. Command is distinct from the East Punjab Area Command and has its forward headquarters at Lahore to facilitate liaison between the East Punjab Area Command and its opposite number in Pakistan.

By the end of October, the Military Evacuation Organisation (India) were using nearly 1,200 military and civilian vehicles for the movement of refugees. Of the ten Motor Transport Companies, each consisting of 150 vehicles, which were raised for the Military Evacuation Organisation, the first company left Delhi on November 2.

The object of the M.E.O. (India) was to evacuate, in the shortest possible time, the maximum number of non-Muslim refugees from West Punjab, and to evacuate Muslim refugees from East Punjab on the outward journey. All civilian police and military resources were mobilised directly under this Command and everything possible was done to overcome the initial difficulties in collecting transport and arranging escort for convoys. The first convoy of 50 civilian buses left Amritsar on September 5 for Sacha Sauda, 17 miles beyond Sheikhpura, and returned with about 3,500 refugees, men, women and children, to Amritsar the following day.

To ensure that the evacuation of refugees received proper priority over the evacuation of movable property, strict instructions were given to Convoy Commanders not to permit more than a trunk of reasonable size and a roll of bedding to be brought by each refugee. Arrangements were made to send with each convoy a few bags of gram for refugee camps in places where there was a shortage of food. A reception and information office was opened at the Command Headquarters where the refugees and their relatives could make enquiries and ask for assistance. Advantage was taken of this organisation to obtain the latest information about the condition of refugees in West Punjab.

Over a million refugees were moved from West to East Punjab and from East to West Punjab by the Military Evacuation Organisation within eight days of its starting to function.

The largest number had been moved on foot, nearly 300,000 by rail and 100,000 by motor transport. A few hundred had also been evacuated by air.

Since organised evacuation concluded and the Military Evacuation Organisation was wound up, the inflow of refugees from West Punjab and the North-West Frontier Province has very much decreased. Efforts are now confined to clear non-Muslims from pockets all over West Punjab and the N.W.F.P. The number of non-Muslims thus stranded is estimated to be 50,000 to 60,000.

Evacuees are brought from pockets to railheads and from there they cross over to India in refugee trains. From December 19 to January 3, eight trains were run from Western Pakistan to India carrying 19,600 refugees, including three trains from the N.W.F.P., which carried 8,700 refugees. There are still about 25,000 refugees in the N.W.F.P. awaiting evacuation. They are mainly in Bannu and in the Agency tracts.

The efforts of the military authorities still operating in Pakistan are now directed to the rescue of abducted women and forcibly converted non-Muslims.

The full story of the Indian Army's help to the refugees will require a pamphlet to itself. The exploits of the Army in this humanitarian task have been many and varied, and a complete estimate of them may not be available for some time yet. Apart from the Military Evacuation Organisation, the Army has done a good deal to help the essential services, such as the railways, hospitals, etc.

Towards the end of September, late and unprecedented floods added to the misery of the refugees. Many refugees and cattle were drowned. Road and rail services were completely disrupted. Assisted by the staff of the railways, army engineers made road diversions, repaired flood-damaged roads and railway lines. Army Bailey bridges were erected to replace the railway bridges which had been destroyed.

The 101st Railway Construction Company of Queen Victoria's Own Sappers and Miners from Bangalore supplied crews to run refugee trains, repair breaches and maintain the safety of the tracks. Besides providing military escort for refugee specials, this company remained constantly on patrol duty providing an adequate advance guard. No trains returned without having completed their journey. The company had Diesel cars at its disposal which were used for reconnaissance purposes.

In the matter of medical supplies, the Indian Army's help was equally valuable and timely. A large number of beds, equipment and nursing staff were made available by the Indian Army Medical Services to the civil authorities for the treatment of refugees in the various camps in Delhi and East Punjab.

To cope with surgical emergencies, surgical teams were in operation in Jullundur, and medical specialists in all the stations were placed at the disposal of civil authorities whenever required. In addition, medical officers employed on internal security duties were attached to civil hospitals and dispensaries for the use of refugees. Civilian casualties inflicted either by the troops or rioters were attended to by Army Medical Officers before evacuation to civil hospitals. Emergency cases were generally sent to Military Hospitals.

Hygiene and Anti-Malaria officers sent their squads to work in refugee camps at Purana Qila, Humayun's Tomb, Railway Station and Wavell Canteen in Delhi. Military inspection rooms were also opened by the Army at Purana Qila and Humayun's Tomb. The Army has been helping the civil authorities in carrying out cholera inoculation of refugees in Amritsar and Ferozepur.

According to the 1941 census, the Hindu-Sikh population of West Punjab was 32.04 lakhs, of N.W.F.P., 3.5 lakhs and of Bahawalpur State, 2.4 lakhs, thus making a total of 41.94 lakhs. The plans for evacuation were based on these figures. By November 21, over eight million refugees had crossed the Indo-Pakistan borders. Of these a little over four million consisted of non-Muslims who were brought over from West Punjab, the N.W.F.P., Sind and Baluchistan. During the same period, about an equal number of Muslims were evacuated to Pakistan from East Punjab and Delhi. On an average more than half a lakh of non-Muslims were brought to safety every day by using all means of transport—trains, motor lorries, aircraft, ships and on foot.





A view of a non-Muslim refugee camp in Western Punjab.

The commandant of the Kurukshetra Camp
addressing the Refugees Representatives Committee.





In a Muslim refugee camp. One of the many families in this camp of 20,000 refugees preparing *rotis*.

A child refugee getting her milk ration.





A view of the tank at the Kurukshetra camp.

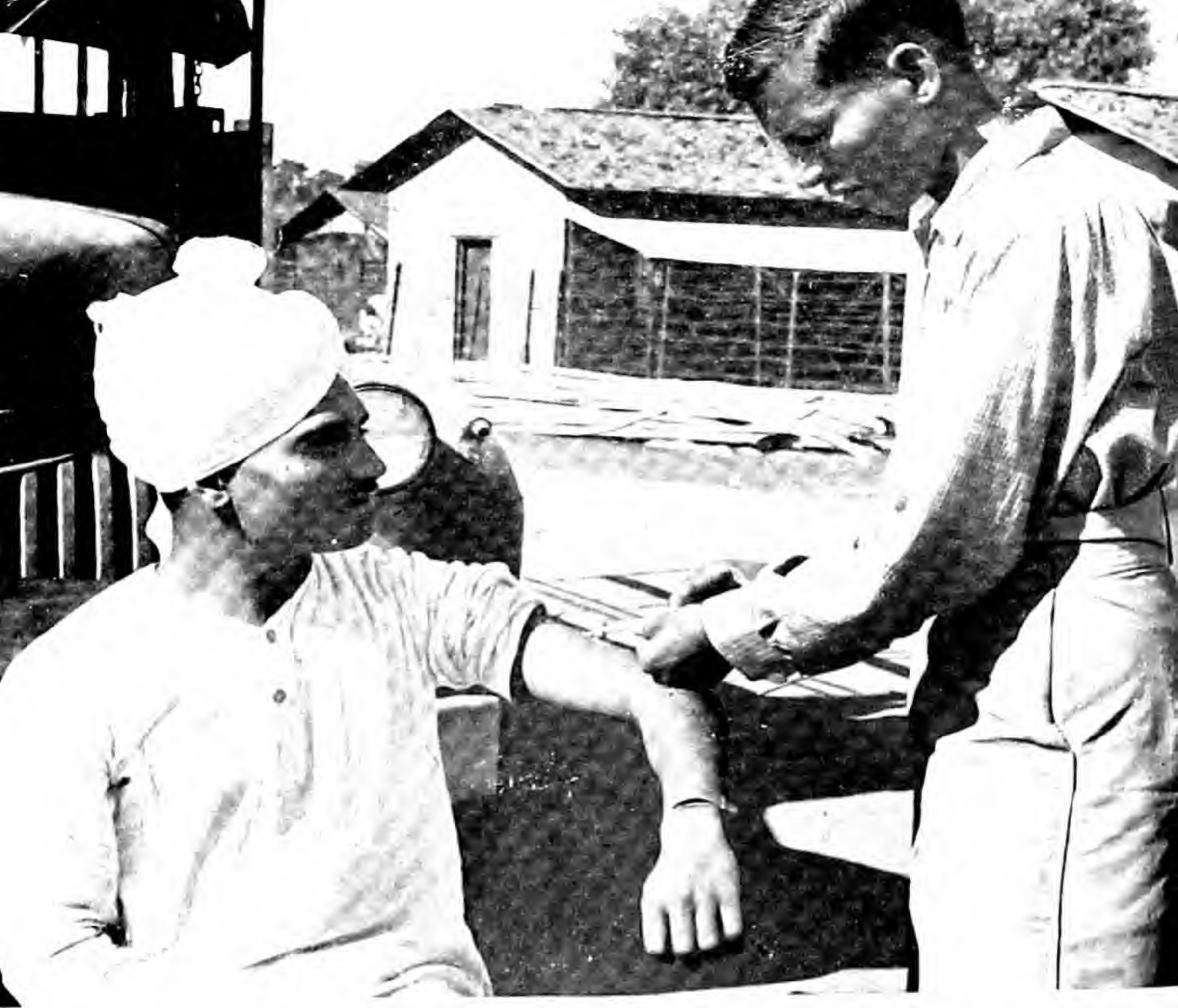
At the Wavell Canteen in Delhi, refugees are served with food before they are taken to their camps.



Refugees on the move—Non-Muslim refugees stopping at a way-side camp before continuing their journey.







Before being admitted to the camp, every refugee is examined medically and inoculated against communicable diseases. Here a refugee is being given anti-cholera inoculation.

Non-Muslim refugees waiting at a camp in Pakistan for evacuation into the Indian Union. Note the expression of fear and anxiety in their faces.





Non-Muslim evacuees in Pakistan waiting anxiously to be transported to India.

Women and children in some of the camps are given a special quota of milk. Here is the morning's milk queue.



"Faced with the most baffling of all problems—the provision of shelter for incoming refugees—the Government had pressed into service all available educational, religious and charitable institutions. Surplus military barracks were utilised and tents put up wherever available for their use. Despite all this, there were still concentrations of refugees in East Punjab towns on the main railway line from Amritsar to Karnal."—The Hon'ble Mr. K. C. Neogy.

CHAPTER III

RECEPTION AND RELIEF

WHAT the refugees need immediately on arrival in India is food, clothing, shelter and medical attention. These have been provided with the greatest possible speed. The main concentration of refugees is in East Punjab, Delhi, U.P., Bombay, the East Punjab States, Bikaner, Jodhpur, and other Rajputana States. It was estimated towards the end of November that the total number of refugees in camps all over India was about 1,250,000, including 5,00,000 in East Punjab, 2,50,000 in Kurukshetra, 150,000 at Delhi, and the rest in camps in other parts of the country. The daily expenditure on camps runs into several hundred thousands of rupees. During 1947-48, a budget of ten crores of rupees has been sanctioned for relief.

The following non-Muslim refugee camps functioning in East Punjab accounted for 721,000 refugees towards the end of December, 1947 :

Amritsar District (5 camps)	...	...	129,398
Gurdaspur District (4 camps)	...	...	3,500
Ferozepore District (5 camps)	...	...	53,000
Ludhiana District (1 camp)	...	...	25,000
Jullundur District (19 camps)	...	...	60,000
Hoshiarpur District (1 camp)	...	...	11,701
Hissar District (3 camps)	...	...	3,797
Rohtak District (2 camps)	...	...	50,000
Ambala District (1 camp)	...	...	40,000
Karnal District, including Kurukshetra (4 camps)			325,000
Gurgaon District (40 camps)	...	...	20,000
Total ... (85 camps)			721,396

There are more than 160 refugee camps all over the country, providing accommodation to 1,250,000 refugees. In East Punjab alone 721,396 refugees are being looked after in 85 camps. Then there are 53,000 refugees in camps in the States of Faridkot, Udaipur, Indore, Gwalior, Alwar, Rewa,

Kotah and Ratlam. Over 13,000 refugees have found shelter in 32 camps in the Bombay Presidency, 30,000 refugees in about 31 camps in the United Provinces, 600 refugees in three camps in Madras and 1,500 refugees in the Central Provinces.

The total number of non-Muslim refugees evacuated up to December 14 from West Punjab, N.W.F.P., Sind and Baluchistan came to 4,362,000. Organised evacuation on a large scale was completed by the Military Evacuation Organisation, India, in the first week of December, a week earlier than the date fixed. Pocket clearance and rescue of abducted women and forcibly converted persons are now in progress.

Food

Food is supplied free to Muslims and non-Muslims in the refugee camps. Foodstuffs provided for refugee camps, between September 11 and October 19, included thousands of bags of rice, flour, lentils, salt and sugar. In addition, an allotment of 28,000 tons of foodgrains was made for October and November to East Punjab, which, according to the arrangement reached at the time of partition, was to be provided by West Punjab. The responsibility for supplying essential food to the Kurukshetra camp has been taken over by the Ministry of Food. This means a daily supply of approximately 80 tons of flour and six tons of lentils. The Ministry has supplied about 310 tons of milk powder and large quantities of tinned provisions for the refugee camps in East Punjab and elsewhere. It has co-ordinated movement of supplies other than foodgrains to East Punjab, such as sugar, cooking oils, charcoal, etc. Although the Governments of India and Pakistan announced that each Government would provide food and other necessities of life in equal measure to all refugees, the Government of India had to arrange food drops by RIAF planes in a number of places in West Punjab, namely, Wah, Jaranwala, Balloki, Khuddian, Chunian, etc. In addition, the Military Evacuation Organisation had to despatch foodstuffs in motor lorries to various points in West Punjab.

Medical Care : Priority Number One

Medical supplies and doctors have had to be rushed to various refugee camps in West Punjab, in spite of the fact that before the partition Lahore had the main medical store depot for the whole province. East Punjab and the Delhi Province, deprived of their normal sources of medical supplies, had thus to fall back upon the Government Medical Store Depots in towns as far away as Bombay and Calcutta. New depots

were hurriedly opened at Karnal and New Delhi. Medical stores consisting mainly of cholera vaccines, sulpha drugs, penicillin, surgical dressings and injection material as well as tins of evaporated milk were sent on two occasions to Lahore, once to Wah and Peshawar, and three times to the Military Evacuation Organisation (India), for use in the non-Muslim camps in West Punjab.

To prevent the outbreak of epidemics and to afford medical relief to non-Muslim refugees, the Ministry of Health despatched up to November 16, a little over 3,500,000 doses of vaccines and 45,000 pounds of medical stores to East Punjab. In addition, medical stores to the extent of 20 wagon loads were supplied to East Punjab from Bombay and other Medical Store Depots. The Ministry of Health also supplied 3,140,000 doses of vaccines to Pakistan as well as 220,000 ccs. of cholera vaccine to the Indian States which had received refugees. The Military Evacuation Organisation (India) was supplied with 263,000 doses of vaccines, and the Kurukshetra camp with 32,715 lbs. of medical stores and 32,000 doses of vaccines. To meet urgent demands from East Pakistan, the production of cholera vaccine was stepped up ten times, over one million doses being produced every week.

The St. John's Ambulance Brigade, the Relief and Welfare Ambulance of Calcutta, the Indian National Ambulance Corps of Calcutta, the National Christian Council and the Marwari Relief Association were among the volunteer organisations that took part in the provision of medical care. For work in East Punjab and Delhi they provided 16 doctors, 22 medical cadets, 4 nurses, 92 first aid personnel, 52 non-medical workers, 2 medical units, one mobile unit and one ambulance.

Medical supplies received from abroad include nine packages of medicine and equipment totalling approximately 300 lbs. from the U.S.A. and 93 lbs. of penicillin from Canada.

Large-scale inoculation against cholera and vaccination against small-pox were organised in the refugee camps in Delhi and East Punjab. Non-Muslim foot columns which marched past Balloki Head into Khem Karan in India were inoculated at the rate of 60,000 a day.

Protection From Cold

Winter in the Punjab is merciless to the under-fed. And those who are not provided with woollen garments or adequate bedding cannot hope to survive the rigours of the season. After days of semi-starvation, and ceaseless tramping, the refugees were in urgent need of protection from the cold. Lakhs of quilts and blankets were thus in immediate demand.

The Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation ordered the supply of 1,050,000 quilts and 350,000 blankets for free distribution among the indigent refugees in East Punjab and Delhi. In addition, orders were placed for the supply of 500,000 cotton stuffed jackets and 500,000 jerseys. About 200,000 lbs. of knitting wool were issued to the Provincial Governments for distribution to various voluntary committees and societies for knitting pullovers. The actual number of blankets and quilts despatched to East Punjab and Delhi including Kurukshetra up to December 14, was 266,703 and 791,910 respectively. Arrangements were also made for the supply of 3,950,000 yards of various kinds of cloth, viz., shirting, *malmal*, drill, khaki, etc., to East Punjab and Delhi. Ready-made garments like shirts, jerseys, trousers and the like, of which about 2,000,000 were obtained from the Director-General of Disposals, were rushed to various places in East Punjab. Relief was not confined to the Indian Union. Arrangements were made for the despatch of 10,000 blankets to the Chief Liaison Officer, Lahore, for the relief of non-Muslim refugees in Sargodha and other districts.

From every part of India came large quantities of old and new ready-made garments, blankets, etc. Blankets and quilts were received by the Hon'ble the Deputy Prime Minister in response to his appeal for clothes. In Delhi, the Clothes Collection and Works Sub-Committee of the United Council for Relief and Welfare collected clothes and organised distribution. Several truck loads of clothes were rushed to Kurukshetra and more are being sent. Large quantities of these old and new clothes have also been supplied to various refugee camps in Delhi.

In distributing clothes to indigent refugees in camps, the Government prescribed the following scales :

- 1 blanket, or *razai* or *greatcoat*.
- 1 pair of pyjamas or shorts, or in the case of women, *salwar*.

In lieu of ready-made garments cloth is given at the following scale for an adult, making an appropriate reduction for a child :

- 2½ yards for a pyjama.
- 4 yards for a *salwar*.
- 1 shirt or *kurta* of not more than 3 yards of cloth.
- 1 *dopatta* (for women only) of 2½ yards of muslin.
- 1 turban (for Sikhs only) of 5 yards of muslin.
- 1 *bundi* (cotton waistcoat stuffed with cotton) or one jersey.

The Government of India have waived the levy of customs duty on all gift parcels received from abroad, exempting them from the payment of railway freight and postal charges. The Supply Movement Officers have been appointed to ensure that stores required for relief and rehabilitation move as speedily as possible from the place of origin to their destination.

The Problem of Shelter

Sheltered accommodation is still a problem, although 181,548 tents, a large number of which were supplied by the Indian Army, have been provided in various refugee camps in East Punjab, including the camp at Kurukshetra. These tents cannot provide accommodation for more than 700,000 persons. Lodgings have also been provided in localities evacuated by Muslims, in charitable and religious institutions, in schools and colleges, some of them having been declared refugee camps. Army barracks in several stations, sufficient to house 200,000 refugees, have been placed at the disposal of the Provincial Governments and the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation. A large number of refugees are staying with their friends and relatives. There are, however, concentrations of refugees in towns on the main railway line from Amritsar to Karnal. Some of the refugees prefer to remain on the Railway station platforms.

The permanent tent camps at Amritsar, Jullundur, Ludhiana and Ferozepur are complete. They have been put up on carefully prepared plans. Provisions have been made for water supply, kitchens, latrines, baths, hospitals, playgrounds and plots for growing vegetables. These camps are well worth visiting. A Superintending Engineer's Circle for the construction and maintenance of proper tent camps has been brought into existence, and four other permanent camps are being put up at Ambala, Karnal, Gurgaon and Rohtak. Transit or Temporary Bivouac Tent Camps are being put up at Amritsar, Jullundur, Ludhiana, Hoshiarpur, Ambala, Shahabad, Karnal, Panipat, Rohtak and Hissar. In addition, all the High Schools and Colleges have been closed down and the buildings thus made available are being used as refugee camps. The military authorities have given what accommodation they can spare in Jullundur and Ambala. Unused barracks have also been used to accommodate the refugees.

The rush of refugees, whether on foot or by train, was too great for the accommodation available at entry points. They had to be sent to whatever places had accommodation available, and at each place, the provision of accommodation lagged

well behind the number of refugees. The life of the non-Muslim refugees in West Punjab was so insecure that it was imperative to move them out as quickly as possible without regard to the adequacy of the arrangements for their reception. This was the real reason for the congestion and confusion which prevailed in the initial stages at some of these camps. An additional factor was the arrangement under which the priorities for the evacuation of non-Muslim refugees in West Punjab were determined by the East Punjab Government, while the priorities for the evacuation of Muslims in East Punjab were determined by the West Punjab Government. Trains had to shuttle between the points selected by the East Punjab Government and those selected by the West Punjab Government. More often than not the refugees arrived in districts in which reception arrangements were at their weakest. The train timings were very uncertain and the telegraphic communications were either bad or non-existent, with the result that the refugees arrived at their destinations either without informing the district authorities or with so little notice that satisfactory arrangements for their reception could not be made. The confusion and the inconvenience caused had to be ignored, for security was the dominating consideration. It was thus decided that evacuation had to be carried out at the quickest possible pace, irrespective of unsatisfactory reception facilities. This being the accepted policy, it was not a matter of surprise that the arrangements for reception were often found inadequate, that the camp conditions were insanitary, that medical aid was unorganised, that medicines were either unavailable or badly distributed and that, at places, not even shelter existed. The surprising thing, indeed, was that there were so few fresh cases of any epidemic, that the mortality rate was so low and that the number of deaths from disease, starvation or exposure was negligible.

Kurukshetra Camp

The largest refugee camp in East Punjab, run entirely by the Government of India, is the one at Kurukshetra, situated between Karnal and Ambala, and covering an area of about nine square miles. This camp has been opened to accommodate 200,000 non-Muslim refugees. Kurukshetra is a well-known place of pilgrimage and has a vast camping ground with water supply for 200,000 people. The Army which is in charge of the camp is assisted by a number of voluntary organisations like the Tata School of Social Services, the Marwari Relief Society, the St. John's Ambulance Brigade, etc. The camp is provided with hospitals, food ration depots, clothing stores and

a post office. Water has been provided and the absence of flies in this camp testifies to satisfactory sanitary arrangements. Broad roads run through long lines of tents of which 600 to 700 are put up daily. The total number of refugees in the camp was about 300,000 on November 21, 1947, though the camp was meant only for 200,000. Now every refugee in the camp is under canvas.

The disposition and discipline of the Kurukshetra camp are on military lines. In September, the camp had a very small civilian staff which, owing to the heavy influx of refugees, was increased in October. As the civilian staff, however, could not cope with the great onrush of refugees, the military authorities were asked to take over. Twelve Army Units were detailed for duty, including one field hygiene section, an anti-malaria unit, a company of field ambulance and a motor ambulance platoon. The army has lent the services of a senior medical officer and six doctors, and supplied stores for ten Medical Inspection Rooms and complete hospital equipment for a 500-bed hospital, as well as disinfectants.

About 250,000 refugees had already arrived in the camp by November 15, 1947. Sometimes as many as 25,000 of them arrived during a single night. As lighting conditions were poor, it was no easy matter to receive, guide, accommodate and feed such a large number at a time. Every effort is made to make the refugees comfortable. Nevertheless, until November 15, about half of them were compelled to live in the open.

The entire camp has been divided into four towns, each with a population of 50,000. In each town, for every 25,000 persons, there are two dispensaries with 25 beds each and a child welfare centre. Fourteen dispensaries are already functioning and the number is to be raised to 16 and later to 20. There are also the main Kurukshetra Hospital with 142 beds and the Women's Hospital in Patiala House with 80 beds. During the month of November, 400 confinements took place and the number of maternal deaths was only three (or three quarters per cent), a figure which compares very favourably with the rate of two per cent of maternal mortality for the country as a whole. Over 500 beds are at present available in the camp. More beds with necessary equipment are arriving shortly. There is also an Infectious Diseases Hospital where cases of typhoid, tuberculosis and other infectious diseases are isolated. Forty-two doctors and a number of lady doctors and nurses are working in the different dispensaries.

The daily out-door attendance at the dispensaries varies from 5,000 to 6,000, about sixty per cent of them being new

cases. A number of educated girls in the camp are being recruited from amongst the refugees to work as helpers in the Maternity and Child Welfare Centres and subsequently in the hospitals. Five thousand men, women and children are deloused daily as a preventive measure against a possible outbreak of typhus and relapsing fevers in the camp. The number of deloused persons already exceeds 115,000. Over 218,000 have already been vaccinated against small-pox at the rate of 10,000 vaccinations per day. There are 106 numbered wells in the camp which are treated with bleaching powder every alternate evening. Besides the usual diet the patients are given multi-vitamin tablets and tinned milk. The Ramakrishna Mission daily distributes milk powder. The Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation has arranged for the supply of 200 tons of fruit juice for distribution to children under ten years of age and has supplied 30 tons of milk powder. Cod-liver oil will be supplied to ailing children.

Children take physical exercise in the morning. Games are also provided for them. Shortly camp schools will be organised. The Tata School of Social Service has provided staff for registration of refugees; their workers have also organised a destitute women's home and Kurukshetra Youth Service Corps. The Destitute Women's Home has 225 women together with children, and they are provided with warm clothing, a dispensary, a nursery and places for work and recreation, their health being looked after by a qualified medical doctor.

The Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation has decided to provide remunerative work for refugees at the camp. With this end in view workshops have been set up for spinning and weaving, dyeing, calico printing, tailoring, blanket making, woodwork, soap making, hand knitting, *durry* and *newar* making.

At present, Kurukshetra is used as a Transit Camp but ultimately it is proposed to accommodate there those refugees from urban areas who cannot be immediately resettled.

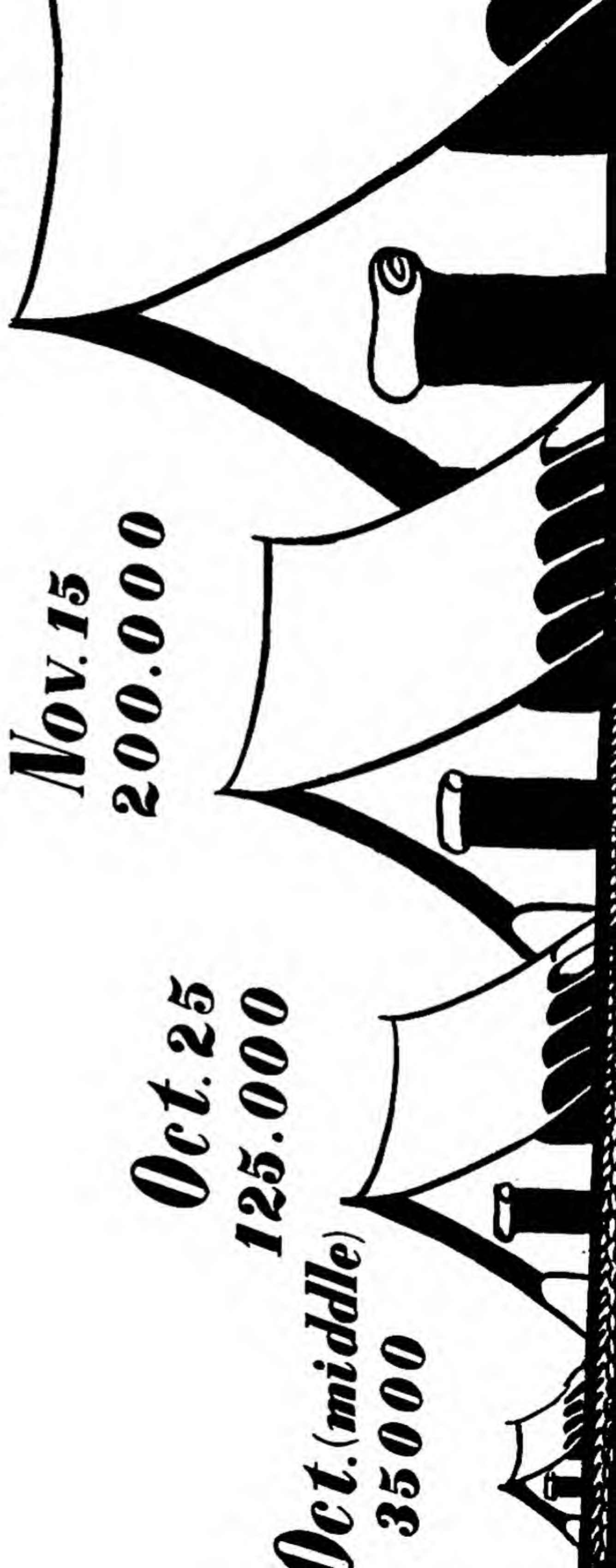
Growth of Kurukshetra Camp (number of refugees)

***Nov. 21
300,000***

***Nov. 15
200,000***

***Oct. 25
125,000***

***Oct. (middle)
35,000***



"The question of refugee rehabilitation must be dovetailed into a bigger all-India plan of reconstruction. A permanent settlement of the issue will only be possible as part of an all-India plan of reconstruction and development."—The Hon'ble Mr. K. C. Neogy.

CHAPTER IV

REHABILITATION

THE biggest problem facing the Government today is the need for the early rehabilitation of over 4,000,000 refugees—a task of staggering proportions. It is estimated that out of the 4,200,000 refugees arriving in India, about 3,000,000 to 3,200,000 will be from rural areas. They have to be settled in the villages to enable them to pursue their former occupations as farmers, farm labourers or artisans.

Of the displaced persons, about 350,000 are already in the United Provinces, nearly 400,000 in Delhi and 150,000 in other provinces and the Indian States (leaving aside East Punjab and its States). Thus nearly 800,000 evacuees have already gone outside East Punjab. The East Punjab States have offered to settle 400,000 people, the provinces, 52,000 and the Indian States, 230,000. It will thus be necessary to rehabilitate some 3,000,000 persons in East Punjab, 400,000 in the East Punjab States, and the rest in other provinces and States.

East Punjab should be able to absorb 3,000,000 evacuees, as the Muslim population of this region in 1947 has been estimated at 5,000,000, and most of these will ultimately have left for Pakistan. Any remaining surplus could be absorbed by provinces like Bombay and Madras, since so far they have each promised to resettle only 10,000 persons. But as the Hindus and Sikhs of West Punjab enjoyed a standard of living much higher than that of the Muslims of East Punjab, it may not be found possible to resettle them on the standard to which they were accustomed before the evacuation. Of the 3,000,000 persons to be settled in East Punjab, 2,000,000 will depend on agriculture and 1,000,000 on industry, trade, the services and other urban professions.

A plan to settle 15,000 families consisting approximately of 75,000 refugees in the Indian States has been announced by the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation. The implementation of the programme of dispersal of the refugees to various places such as Gwalior, Bharatpur, Kotah, Ratlam, Alwar, Indore, Bombay, Central Provinces, Bihar, Orissa and Madras has already begun. The East Punjab States are expected to absorb over 400,000 refugees, while 100,000 refugees will be taken by other States and Provinces.

One of the principal problems in the settlement of evacuees, particularly in rural areas, is that the occupational structure of the non-Muslim refugees is unlike the occupational structure of the Muslim refugees who have migrated to Pakistan. For example, in East Punjab there are now a large number of carpenters who are non-Muslims but few blacksmiths, for most of the blacksmiths who were Muslims are now in Pakistan.

It has been decided that lands vacated by Muslims in East Punjab should be allotted to non-Muslim refugees until the *rabi* crops are gathered in 1948. The allotment is to be made on a group basis. The Deputy Commissioners are, however, authorised to make a departure from this general rule in the case of gardens and well-irrigated lands. It has also been decided by the East Punjab Government that refugees arriving from certain districts in West Punjab are to be allotted lands situated in particular districts in East Punjab, though it has not been possible to adhere to this scheme in all cases.

Already 2,000,000 acres have been allotted to over 200,000 families in East Punjab. Of the total area of 4,500,000 acres abandoned by the Muslims in East Punjab as against 5,700,000 acres abandoned by the non-Muslims in West Punjab, only 3,300,000 acres are cultivable. On the other hand, owing to incomplete exodus from East Punjab, it is estimated that only 3,000,000 acres may be available for resettlement.

Agriculturists and village artisans, who have been deprived of all their possessions, need assistance in the matter of purchase of cattle, implements and seeds. They also require assistance for the repair of houses. For these purposes, the Government wishes the provinces and States to advance loans to such people; if, however, the provinces and States are unable to bear the financial burden, the Central Government will give them the necessary help. The refugees who settle down on land will need food for themselves and fodder for their cattle till the next crop is harvested. In such cases free grants will be given to refugees, the Centre, the provinces and the States sharing the financial burden. The East Punjab Government has already sanctioned the distribution of *taccavi* loans amounting to Rs. 15,750,000 of which Rs. 3,250,000 will be distributed for the purchase of bullocks, Rs. 2,500,000 for the repair of houses and Rs. 5,000,000 for the purchase of fodder.

About 84,000 tons of wheat seed have already been distributed to districts and 20,000 tons have been indented in the U.S.A. The Governor of East Punjab has secured 6,000 tons of seed from Orissa, and the Government of India has made an

allotment of 9,000 tons. The Indian Ministry of Agriculture has supplied ten tractors complete with implements for the cultivation of *rabi* lands in East Punjab. These tractors should be able to bring about 10,000 acres under the plough. In addition to the supply of wheat seed, arrangements have been made to send to East Punjab large quantities of winter vegetable seeds.

Urban Refugees

It is estimated that the total number of urban refugees amounts to between 1,200,000 and 1,500,000. The existing towns in East Punjab are incapable of absorbing this large number, though steps have been taken to carry out repairs to damaged houses and bungalows. It has been decided that the allotment of residential accommodation in East Punjab should be made only to those who have come from the urban areas of West Punjab. Even then 550,000 urban refugees will not be able to secure any accommodation immediately. Consequently they will have to remain under canvas and in refugee camps until they can be absorbed in the urban areas. In Delhi, the Government of India are exploring the possibility of reserving for refugees certain sites both in the residential and industrial areas. Schemes such as the development of large cities, the building of a new capital for East Punjab, etc., are being examined. The Provincial Governments have been asked to consider immediately and to report on the possibilities of suburban development in the vicinity of large towns and cities all over India. The States have been asked to give priority to refugees in the matter of exploitation of business opportunities created by the evacuation of Muslims from their areas.

According to an ordinance promulgated in Delhi, a refugee must register within a specified period from the date of his arrival. So far 400,000 refugees have been registered in Delhi. The work of registration in East Punjab will commence shortly. Compulsory registration is already in force in the United Provinces.

Employment and Training

Employment Exchanges have been opened in Delhi and Simla, as well as in East Punjab and West U.P. and a special office has been established in Bombay. A large number of refugees have already been registered by the Exchanges and a considerable number of them have secured employment through them. A Transfer Bureau has been opened by the Ministry of Home Affairs and all the Ministries have been instructed not to fill vacancies until it has been ascertained that

no suitable candidate can be supplied by the Transfer Bureau. Up to the middle of November, over 8,000 refugees had secured employment under the Government of India and in certain provinces. The Provincial Governments have been asked to relax rules which restrict recruitment by the Government only to persons domiciled in the Province.

The training of semi-skilled and skilled persons is of the utmost importance in any programme of rehabilitation. Over 4,000 refugees will immediately be trained in the Labour Ministry's Centre for Ex-Servicemen in a number of technical and vocational trades. Possibilities of absorbing a large number of skilled workers in the railway workshops after a short period of training are being examined. Centres are being opened in the various refugee camps where the refugees will be engaged on remunerative occupations like spinning and weaving, hosiery and knitting, button-making, etc. Schemes for voluntary training of juveniles are also being prepared. Large stocks of goods available in the Disposals Directorate have been frozen with the idea of utilising them for the rehabilitation of the refugees, the stocks covering equipment for 27 different trades.

With a view to meeting the shortage of artisans urgently required for reconstruction work in East Punjab, the Government of India have sanctioned a scheme for imparting technical and vocational training to a selected number of adult male refugees from Western Pakistan. The existing training centres for ex-servicemen in Delhi, Ajmer-Merwara and East Punjab are to be opened to refugees and four new centres will be started in East Punjab in consultation with the East Punjab Government. The training will embrace 12 trades including metal work, cabinet-making, brick-laying, fitting, gas-welding, watch-repairing, mechanical draughtsmanship, manufacture of footwear, tailoring, etc. The scheme contemplates the provision of seats for 2,272 students and about one-half of these will be immediately available. The period of training will be about six months.

The Government has sanctioned an advance of a maximum of Rs. 5000 per individual in order to facilitate resettlement. These loans are meant for traders, businessmen, artisans, and persons who wish to set up their own workshops or cottage industries. The scheme will be introduced very shortly in the centrally administered areas. The Central Government will be prepared to render financial assistance to any province or administration which decides to adopt a similar scheme with such modifications as it may consider necessary.

Financial Assistance

In order to assist large-scale industry and business, it is proposed to set up a Rehabilitation Finance Administration in consultation with the Reserve Bank of India. To provide facilities to refugees coming from Pakistan who were unable to transfer their Savings Bank Accounts to post offices in India, it has been decided to allow, under certain conditions, withdrawals from postal Savings Banks in respect of deposits made before August 14. Cash and other certificates issued from post offices in Pakistan and tendered for transfer at Indian post offices will be treated as formally transferred, the necessary intimation containing full particulars of these certificates being sent to the Pakistan Government. Holders will be allowed to cash these certificates up to a limit of Rs. 500/- on proper identification, payments in excess of the amount being made only on execution of a bond of indemnity. Holders of insurance policies who were paying their premiums in Pakistan have been allowed to credit their premiums in post offices in India. The payment of advances to Central Government civil pensioners who have come as refugees from Pakistan has been authorised. Indian military pensioners have also been permitted to draw pensions subject to certain conditions.

A scheme has been sanctioned for the granting of loans to students and trainees abroad, since their guardians, being refugees, are no longer in a position to finance them. The extension of this scheme to students in India is under consideration.

The claims of refugees in respect of their movable and immovable property left behind or lost in Pakistan are being registered. The Provincial Governments and States have also been requested to make similar arrangements regarding measures for registration of claims. A Custodian of Evacuee Property, assisted by Advisory Committees consisting of non-officials, has been appointed. An Advisory Committee consisting of representatives of various interests and communities and classes of refugees has been set up to advise the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation on all matters of policy.

Educational Facilities

In order to enable refugee students to resume their studies at the stage at which they were interrupted, the Provincial Governments were invited to afford them the necessary facilities. The Ministry of Education undertook to provide all facilities to the East Punjab Government to enable it to open a camp college in Delhi.

The Delhi University has offered the utmost co-operation by admitting as many displaced students as possible in its colleges and by making arrangements to start, on behalf of the East Punjab University, Honours courses and M.Sc. classes for East Punjab students in Physics and Chemistry.

Educational facilities have been provided to refugee school children by opening two High Schools in Delhi. It is understood that additional accommodation is being provided in educational institutions in Bombay and U.P. for the admission of refugee children.

The universities in the provinces and certain technical institutions have been approached by the Ministry of Education to provide facilities for admission to refugee students in technical subjects. The Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Agriculture have made arrangements for the rehabilitation of refugee medical and agricultural students respectively.

The question of providing employment to refugee teachers and professors who were employed in various educational institutions in Pakistan, and have suddenly lost their means of livelihood, is receiving full attention. A register of displaced teachers who desire to be resettled is being maintained, and full particulars regarding their academic qualifications, experience, scale of salary, etc., are being kept. Thanks to the co-operation of local bodies and private managements of schools in Delhi, it has been possible so far to give employment to 270 refugee teachers.

Women and Children

As a result of appeals for public co-operation in the rehabilitation of unattached women and children, offers are pouring in from many parts of India. A special camp has been set up for destitute women at Kurukshetra. Arrangements are also being made to transfer a technical institute from East Punjab to Delhi where these women will be trained in different vocations and professions. The question of advancing money to widows and others is under active consideration.

The Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation has opened a Fact Finding Branch to collect authentic information about atrocities committed on non-Muslims in Pakistan. The Ministry has also provided, in conjunction with the Indian Red Cross Society, an Enquiry and Search Service with the special object of tracing and recovering abducted women and non-Muslims kidnapped or forcibly converted. This office has already handled over 23,000 enquiries and lists containing names

have been forwarded to the Indian High Commissioner in Pakistan and his Deputies in Peshawar and Lahore, to the Punjab branch of the Indian Red Cross Society and the Government's Liaison Officers in West Punjab. For the recovery of abducted women, the Government depends at present on the active assistance of the military authorities, district authorities, women social workers and prominent persons of the localities concerned. Machinery for this purpose is already in operation, but further proposals have been made to the Pakistan Government with a view to expanding that machinery.

East Punjab Government's Rehabilitation Machinery

The East Punjab Government has set up a Department of Rehabilitation with separate Directorates for Rural Rehabilitation and Urban Rehabilitation. In consultation with non-official Advisory Committees, the Deputy Commissioners have been made responsible for the allotment of land to agriculturist refugees in their districts, according to a well organised scheme. Out of a total area of 4,500,000 acres abandoned by Muslims in East Punjab, 3,300,000 acres are cultivable; of these 1,250,000 acres have been allotted and over 177,000 families have been settled on them.

Of the total number of non-Muslims arriving from West Punjab, 2,950,000 are of rural and 1,090,000 of urban origin. Against these in East Punjab 3,450,000 Muslims were from the rural areas and 900,000 were urban. On the other hand, between the non-Muslims and Muslims there was a wide disparity in their relative standards of living in the towns and in their relative holdings in rural areas. A mere comparison of numbers, however, gives an inaccurate impression. Against the total area of 5,700,000 acres abandoned in West Punjab, the total area owned by Muslims is 4,500,000 acres of which 1,150,000 are to be found in the insecure districts of Hissar and Gurgaon. Of the cultivable area owned by Muslims in East Punjab 3,300,000 acres are now available for settlement. The families from West Punjab who are entitled to receive land in East Punjab on a temporary basis number between 350,000 and 375,000, but even allowing for East Punjab States, East Punjab is short of land for some 50,000 to 60,000 families.

In the urban area, the number of houses in West Punjab towns inhabited by non-Muslims would be 175,203 against the corresponding figure of 170,480 for Muslims in East Punjab. Allowing for fresh construction for increasing population since 1941, for the differing standards of accommodation amongst

Muslims and non-Muslims, and for new additions to non-agricultural urban population in East Punjab, the net shortage in towns in East Punjab is of the order of 75,000 to 100,000 houses. Altogether, as the East Punjab economy stands today, the province is short of the means of economic absorption for 700,000 non-agricultural population (120,000 to 140,000 families). Hitherto East Punjab has to a certain extent been obliged to restrict resettlement to the population from West Punjab, but if East Punjab were to extend its sphere of resettlement to persons from the North-West Frontier Province, Sind, Baluchistan, and Bahawalpur, this would mean assuming further responsibility for 200,000 non-agriculturists and for 150,000 agriculturists in addition to the present deficit of 700,000 non-agriculturists and 300,000 agriculturists. Thus, East Punjab is short of land and short of shelter, and in dealing with the non-agricultural population, extremely short of the means of economic absorption. Further, certain vocations both in towns and villages were followed largely by the Muslims. In this respect the East Punjab economy has been seriously depleted. During the past few months, on account of the difficulties of transport, credit, labour and, until recently, law and order, there has been a state of economic stagnation in the field of business and industry in East Punjab. The problem of rehabilitation directly concerns the refugees, and while they are the first and the most urgent care of the Government, the social economy of the province has to be built on sound foundations. As far as possible, this wider view has guided the work of rehabilitation in East Punjab.

Allotment of Land

The group allotment of land in East Punjab holds great promise for the future. It is hoped to organise, as conditions permit, an improved system of farming and village organisation on the basis of joint village management. Land has been allotted temporarily up to the end of the *rabi* harvest of 1948, on a uniform basis, to all who held land in West Punjab, whether as owners or as occupancy tenants or as tenants at will. Among other projects, it is proposed to sink 1,000 wells in the villages in which refugees are being settled.

As a rule, all allotments will be made on a group basis. This means that the land in a village will be given jointly to a group of families coming from the same area in West Punjab. It may be possible to accommodate two separate groups in the same village, but when a group is a particularly large one it may be divided into two sub-groups, each being given a separate village.

Within the framework of group allotment, each family will cultivate the area assigned to it. Each family will get ten acres of land for cultivation. An addition of three acres will be allowed in respect of married adult workers, and of two acres in respect of unmarried male adult workers. No addition is to be allowed if the number of adult male members in a family is two or less. Additions are to be allowed only for the third, fourth or fifth worker in a family. If the number of adult workers exceeds five, no further additions are to be made. In arriving at the total area to be allotted to a particular group, account will be taken of the number of families constituting the group and the size of each family. All agricultural refugees who have either owned land or have been cultivating land as tenants in West Punjab are eligible for the allotment of land. Thus non-cultivating owners also will be entitled to allotment.

Group allotment means joint management and joint possession. Within its framework, each family will be responsible for the cultivation of a definite piece of land. If there are ten families in a group, the land will be divided into ten work units without regard to the individual to whom different units are to be allotted. It will be in the interest of each community to ensure that the units are demarcated as fairly as possible. Thereafter, the participating families can draw lots to determine their own share of land.

Advantage has been taken of the abandonment of large tracts of land to utilise certain areas for seed farms in which East Punjab was particularly deficient. A scheme for co-operative garden colonies covering an area of 14,000 to 15,000 acres is being implemented. Land in these colonies will be managed mainly by educated, experienced and successful farmers from West Punjab. With each garden colony there will be a factory for the manufacture of fruit products, cold storage, and poultry, dairy and vegetable farming. This scheme is of great potential importance for the future.

Urban Rehabilitation

It is estimated that the total number of urban refugees would be about 1,200,000 to 1,500,000. The existing towns in East Punjab are incapable of absorbing this large number, though steps have been taken to carry out repairs to houses and bungalows which were damaged. It has been decided that allotment of residential accommodation in East Punjab should be made only to those who have come from urban areas in West Punjab. Even then 550,000 urban refugees will not be able to secure any accommodation immediately. Consequently they will have to remain under canvas and in

refugee camps until arrangements can be made to absorb them in urban areas. In Delhi, the Government of India are exploring the possibility of reserving for refugees certain sites both in residential and industrial areas. Schemes such as urban development of large cities, building of a new capital for East Punjab, etc., are being examined. Provincial Governments have been asked to consider immediately and to report on the possibilities of suburban development in the vicinity of large towns and cities all over India. States have been asked to give priority to refugees in the matter of exploitation of business opportunities created by the evacuation of Muslims from their areas.

The first problem to be solved in the urban areas is that of shelter. To ensure shelter for the refugees the East Punjab Government has gone to the length of keeping educational institutions closed until the end of February, 1948. The educational staff and the students are being diverted, as a matter of emergency, to the task of relief and rehabilitation. Accommodation abandoned by the Muslims is being rationed out amongst the refugees. The scale adopted for the purpose is 50 square feet for an adult and 30 square feet for a child under 10 years of age. Five towns, namely, Amritsar, Jullundur, Ludhiana, Ambala and Ferozepur have been placed in a special category, and the allotment of accommodation available there is being made in accordance with certain categories of essentialities. Accommodation surveys are being made and the survey in Jullundur and Ludhiana will be the first to be completed. The Public Works Department is setting up an organisation which will help to fit and equip houses to accommodate larger numbers of people without causing a marked deterioration in their standard of living. It is hoped shortly to undertake schemes of planned expansion in various towns, keeping in view considerations such as demand for accommodation, communication, power, commercial and industrial potentialities.

Displaced persons living at present under canvas in East Punjab will have roofed accommodation before April. This is expected to be achieved by the construction of semi-permanent buildings at selected sites in existing towns, by the repair of damaged and burnt houses and the refitting of houses vacated by Muslims so as to accommodate more and by requisitioning groups of buildings.

A two-crore scheme has been sanctioned for immediately putting up semi-permanent structures for 200,000 in 25 towns of East Punjab for which development schemes have already

been approved. The location of these structures will also fit in with industrial plans for the province. Over 7,000 acres of land is available for suburban and supplementary town development. The new capital, for which alternative sites have been inspected, is also expected to absorb a large number of displaced persons.

To meet the needs of small men for finance a sum of Rs. 5,000,000 has been sanctioned for loans and grants which will shortly be available. Out of the total sum, Rs. 1,500,000 will be distributed amongst shopkeepers and small-scale industrialists as grants at the scale of Rs. 500/- per concern, while the balance of Rs. 3,500,000 will be given in the shape of loans at the scale of Rs. 5,000 per concern. Committees with non-officials in the majority are being set up for this purpose. A proposal is also under examination by the Government of India and the Reserve Bank for the establishment of a Rehabilitation Finance Corporation with a capital of about Rs. 50,000,000. It is hoped that this scheme will materialise at an early date and will stimulate economic activity on a wide scale. In the first instance its scope will be limited to assisting the refugees but the Corporation may play a vital role in the development of the province. Assistance will extend, it is hoped, not only to business and industry, but also to professions.

A scheme of great interest owes its inception to the All India Spinners' Association. It provides for the establishment of 50 cotton-spinning centres, each with 2,000 regular spinners. It is proposed to advance as *taccavi*, charkhas as well as cotton slivers at the rate of 10 seers per spinner. Each spinner will be required to spin 10 seers of yarn, out of which $9\frac{1}{2}$ seers will provide him with 60 yards of cloth, half a seer being allowed for spinning wastage. Apart from *taccavi*, recoverable over a period and amounting to Rs. 2,930,000, the scheme will cost a little over Rs. 1,800,000 of which Rs. 1,500,000 represent weaving wages over and above the return for spinning. With this scheme in operation it will be possible to provide supplementary work to 100,000 families, who will also receive 60 yards of cloth, and employment to 10,000 weavers, 2,000 carpenters and 260 other workers. It is proposed to have 2,000 handlooms and 100,000 charkhas manufactured, as far as possible, on decentralised lines.

Another scheme of the All India Spinners' Association aims at the production of 240,000 blankets in six months in five woollen spinning centres with 2,000 charkhas each. Besides

spinning and weaving at the selected cotton and woollen centres, it is proposed to organise training in village industries.

The five year plan prepared before partition is now being considered in terms of the new economy of the province. It is hoped to take up a number of agricultural, veterinary and other schemes which are of special interest from the point of view of rehabilitation. On the industrial side there are, for instance, schemes for the establishment of an industrial colony for power loom weavers, of collecting, dyeing, finishing and distributing sections for the cotton handloom industry, for two dyeing, finishing and manufacturing stations in connection with the leather industry, and for the establishment of a saw-mill and perhaps also of a resin factory. It is hoped to carry out a rapid industrial survey of the province and to re-establish industries like the manufacture of sports goods and metalware. Proposals for the establishment of spinning mills for cotton, worsted and woollen yarn are also under consideration.

There are numerous other proposals also and it is expected that the return of confidence and security and the provision of adequate finance will provide the incentive for widespread industrial development. At the same time the Government also desires to encourage co-operatives among the artisans and other independent workers. A limiting factor for the development of industry is the extent to which power resources are available. In this respect, although the scope is not as wide as one might wish, with the immense power resources from the Bhakra and Nangal projects, the future is definitely bright. Ultimately it is hoped that the province will be able to carry a much larger load, so that it might later be possible to recall many whom it must send out now.

Instructions have been issued by Government for leases of commercial and industrial establishments abandoned by evacuees from East Punjab. The Government proposes to render as much assistance as possible both to lessees of these establishments and to those who start new enterprises. At present, the economy of the province has been rudely disturbed, but the population which has come to it from West Punjab has resource and initiative. Given a helping hand at this stage, it is hoped, the new-comers will enrich the province and will soon be able to stand on their own feet.



The Indian Military Prison in Multan was converted into a non-Muslim Transit Camp. A view of the refugees behind the barbed wires waiting for evacuation.



Tired out after his long journey, a little boy refugee sleeps soundly by the road-side.



These uprooted youngsters are still happy. They feel quite at home anywhere in India.

Education of youngsters is also attended to in the refugee camps. Here is a boys' class in session.



Women refugees at the Kingsway Camp, Delhi, occupy themselves with some useful work. Here they are seen sewing and knitting.



Girl students being taught by a refugee teacher in a refugee camp.





Blankets and woollens being distributed to the camp.

The Canadian Red Cross sent 93 cases of penicillin, by a special plane, as a gift to India for use among the refugees. In the picture the Canadian High Commissioner in India is seen presenting penicillin to the Hon'ble Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, Health Minister, Government of India.





Lady Mountbatten talking to a refugee patient at Sir Ganga Ram Hospital in Lahore.

Most of the refugee camps in India are well-equipped and have a number of beds for in-patients. Here the camp doctor examines a patient.



"Paper plans cannot rehabilitate people. This gigantic task requires a strong, efficient and dynamic executive machine. Without such an executive the best plan in the world will fail. The executive machinery should consist of some of the best brains of the country: selfless men of broad vision and iron will."

CHAPTER V

SOME THOUGHTS ON URBAN REHABILITATION

FOR purposes of resettlement, refugees can be broadly classified into three categories: the well-to-do, the middle class and the workers. Those who have come over with substantial bank balances will be able to take care of themselves and their future. On the other hand, the middle class people who belong to a profession have now little financial resources to maintain their former standard of living and will accept such jobs as they may be offered. Finally, there are numerous categories of workers and craftsmen who require immediate succour for their day-to-day existence. Among the inmates of the refugee camps are generally to be found teachers, doctors, accountants, salesmen, clerks, cooks, weavers, tailors, *dhobis*, *mistries* and domestic servants. As there is a pressing demand for the services of such people, it should not be difficult to find work for them. The Employment Exchanges, meant primarily for the resettlement of demobilised soldiers, have now before them an excellent opportunity to prove their worth and usefulness.

Domestic Servants

The number of displaced domestic servants is about 37,500, but since there is an acute shortage of domestic servants in the cities and towns of India, they should be able to find a place for themselves without difficulty.

Public Works

Public works will have to play an important part in the scheme of rehabilitation; and at the same time they can be used as a corrective to our lop-sided economy. A considerable number of agricultural labourers as well as village and city artisans could be diverted to nation-building works. Indeed there could be no better opportunity for launching a scheme of public works than the present one in view of the availability of such a large supply of skilled and unskilled labour.

(i) The local bodies would clear slums, repair, reconstruct and extend roads and footpaths, improve drainage, plant trees and lay out suburbs. All this could be done immediately.

(ii) The Provincial and Central Governments, too, have to engage in extensive public works in the near future. This

could, however, be done in such a way that nothing is duplicated or wasted and the schemes of rehabilitation undertaken immediately might be dovetailed into the more comprehensive nation-building schemes.

The Government aims at doubling the power resources of the country by 1955, at a cost of Rs. 66 crores. Similarly, it is proposed to increase and improve 6,208 miles of national highways and 51,000 miles of provincial roads, apart from the 30,000 miles of village tracks, at a total cost of Rs. 185 crores. The Railways, too, have their schemes which are estimated to cost Rs. 230 crores. Apart from this, there are a dozen major irrigation projects involving many crores of rupees.

Then there are new towns to be built. With the announcement of a final selection of the capital of East Punjab, many of the businessmen, contractors, industrialists, teachers and others will find immediate work. The construction work alone will absorb a lakh of people for several years. The scheme of building a 'Greater Delhi' in the near future will also give employment to many thousands.

Economic Survey

The sudden transfer of population between India and Pakistan has disrupted the country's economy and created many gaps in its economic life. No scheme of rehabilitation can proceed on correct lines without taking into account the existing deficiencies of the economic structure. Economic planning pre-supposes economic data. India has always been deficient in statistics; but the position has become worse because even the faulty machinery that existed formerly has been put out of gear, and in many cases records have been destroyed in the recent disturbances. It will, therefore, be necessary to undertake a rapid enquiry into the condition of agriculture, industry and trade in East Punjab and its neighbouring provinces and States.

Administrative Machinery

Paper plans cannot rehabilitate people. This gigantic task requires a strong, efficient and dynamic executive machine. Without such an executive the best plan in the world will fail. The executive machinery should consist of some of the best brains of the country: selfless men of broad vision and iron will. It must also be borne in mind that the task of rehabilitation will require the closest co-operation and co-ordination between the provinces, the States and the Centre.

It is important to have a complete register of refugees so that essential information about their age, social status and

occupational distribution may be available for planning out a scientific scheme of rehabilitation. Once a full survey of the categories of workers can be made, it should be possible to make the best use of such personnel.

The influx of Hindus and Sikhs into and the exodus of Muslims from East Punjab have released new economic forces in the province. The evacuees are mostly artisans—blacksmiths, weavers, potters, etc., while the refugees from West Punjab are, in the main, lawyers, doctors, teachers, clerks, shopkeepers and cultivators.

About 900,000 evacuees were probably supported by industry, while among them not more than a lakh (1,00,000) could have belonged to large and medium scale industries. The remaining 8 lakhs (8,00,000) must have depended on cottage industries and small workshops for their livelihood.

Cottage industries should, as a matter of fact, be the main-spring of all economic activity in the near future. As they enjoy an intermediary position between rural and urban occupations, they can bridge the gulf between the village and the town. East Punjab has some of the best technicians in the country and, with their aid, the quickest and best returns, in terms of production and employment, can be obtained, provided the industries are properly selected and efficiently organised. The small undertakings need not fear any competition from large scale industry, so long as the all round scarcity of consumer goods remains. With the completion of some of the hydro-electric power schemes, cheap electricity may be available in the villages and the towns. The cottage industries and small workshops can then find a permanent place in the long-term economic plan for the country.

What are the cottage industries best suited to conditions in East Punjab? These have been selected in the light of the availability of raw materials, the nature of the internal demand for consumer goods and their capacity, in several cases, to earn sterling and dollar exchange in the external markets.

COTTAGE INDUSTRIES

Textiles: Hand spinning and weaving can be so organised as to become self-sufficient with regard to its requirements of yarn. Recently the Punjab Branch of the All India Spinners' Association submitted a scheme for the production of cotton as well as woollen yarns. According to this scheme, the Government is to supply to 100,000 refugee families raw cotton and 100,000 charkhas at half the cost price. Similarly, 10,000 charkhas are to be supplied for spinning woollen yarn. With

a view to encouraging the use of hand-spun yarn, the scheme seeks to restrict the entry of mill-made yarn in the proposed weaving centres.

Blankets : The wool spinning and weaving industry can be organised in the districts of Karnal, Hoshiarpur and Gurdaspur where coarse blankets are already woven on a small scale. *Lohis* and *pattis* are made in Kangra and Simla districts. The industry has also a scope in Hissar district. The bulk of Bikaneri wool finds its way to Fazilka. Tibetan merchants supply wool to the Gurdaspur market from where a large part of it is re-exported. The industry in all these districts can be so organised as to absorb all this wool locally.

Hosiery : Ludhiana and Amritsar are the two important centres of the hosiery industry in East Punjab. Before the partition, at Ludhiana in particular, the industry was being run on a small scale in various households. Hindu capitalists largely supplied the looms and the yarn required, while labour was mainly Muslim. The industry suffered a set-back during the war on account of scarcity of yarn ; but the recent disturbances have almost paralysed it. Only the few bigger mills still continue to work, although below capacity. The hosiery industry, by reason of the cheapness of raw material, the simple character of the work and the smallness of capital required, can be reorganised on a cottage industry basis.

Closely allied to the textile and hosiery industries is the dyeing and calico printing industry which can be expanded on a cottage basis, side by side with the 'Khadi Scheme'. Special training needs to be imparted to the dyers and printers in the art of dyeing, printing, and bleaching.

The carpet industry is another industry which, if organised on co-operative lines and given special facilities, can secure substantial dollar balances for India. The industry may, however, require help in the following matters :

1. Training of labour
2. Provision of specific type of yarn and
3. Provision of dye-stuffs.

Food Industries : Fruit-gardening and the fruit preservation industry offer large scope for expansion. The mangoes of Ambala and Hoshiarpur, the apples and peaches of Kulu and the citrus fruit of Gurgaon and Nurpur (Kangra) are already well known. These fruits can be scientifically preserved and canned and exported abroad. At the same time more fruit-gardening can be encouraged in suitable places. Indian fruit

products, though of comparatively recent growth, have attracted attention in outside markets.

Dairy farming on co-operative lines can be organised in Hissar, Karnal and Gurgaon. Dairy products will find a ready market all over the country and even abroad. 'Ag-marked' (Government sealed) ghee particularly can be prepared in these centres and sent to the major towns of India. The addition of piggeries for Harijans will be useful. Leather goods and bone products will form important allied industries.

The bee-keeping industry provides honey which constitutes a nutritive food. The production of honey can be increased and foreign markets found for the product. The canning and bottling of honey will be a subsidiary industry. The industry has its greatest scope in the forest zones of East Punjab and in the Kangra Valley. Demonstration parties can be sent round to train the people and popularise the industry.

Tobacco Products : Indigenous cigarettes have a good market in India. The cultivation of better varieties of tobacco can be introduced in East Punjab. A large number of evacuees can be employed in the industry, if it is properly organised.

Vegetable Oil : East Punjab grows enough cotton seeds, and the local oil crushing industry may be promoted on co-operative lines, particularly at Panipat, Sonapat and Rohtak. The co-operatives so formed might be supplied with *kolhus* of improved variety and might be taught allied industries like the manufacture of soap, perfumed oil, etc. Oil-cake and meal—the by-products of the industry—are valuable cattle food and manure.

Sports Goods : The sports goods industry in Sialkot was of special importance as it not only employed a large number of people, but had a wide foreign market, yielding dollar balances to India. Such an industry could be re-established in new centres and the migrants from Sialkot employed there. Pathankot and Gurdaspur will be the most suitable centres for the manufacture of tennis and badminton racquets, hockey sticks and cricket bats. The volley ball and football industry might be localised at Kartarpur and Jullundur.

Toys : The manufacture of toys was started in the Punjab just after the close of the War. Before the War, toys came mostly from Japan ; but with changed conditions the industry offers a large field. The toy industry, set up in East Punjab, should be able to absorb women and children and even old and infirm people.

Woodworks and Furniture Making : Kartarpur enjoys a high reputation for its furniture. The industry might be reorganised on co-operative lines and expanded so as to meet the present requirements.

Surgical Instruments : Scientific instruments, manufactured mostly at Sialkot, commanded a good market abroad during the War. The industry could be organised at Batala in East Punjab, where the existing workshops might be conveniently adapted to the needs of the industry. The two primary requirements of the industry are :

1. Steel alloy of a specific type
2. Precision work.

A Surgical Instruments Development and Testing Laboratory could be set up at Batala on the lines of the one established during the War at Sialkot, and this institution might be entrusted with the task of supplying the right type of steel to the workers. The required steel might be produced within the country on an increased scale. The laboratory could also work out designs of new instruments and impart the necessary training to the workers. An effort should also be made to absorb as many evacuees as possible from among those who have been directly or indirectly connected with the industry.

Brassware : The existing brassware industry at Jagadhri might be reorganised to attain the standard of workmanship and finish achieved in Muradabad. A training course in electro-plating, polishing and finishing metal utensils would give a new impetus to this industry.

Bicycles : The Bicycle Industry could also be organised as a cottage industry. This is so in Japan where bicycles are used extensively for carrying passengers and goods. Considering the needs of the common man in India, bicycles offer the only answer to the shortage of transport facilities. A large number of displaced persons might be trained to manufacture cycle parts, while the cycles could be assembled in larger factories.

General Engineering Works : Small-scale engineering establishments gave employment to over 100,000 persons in the whole of the Punjab. There is a wide field for the setting up of new works in East Punjab. Batala and Amritsar are already two important centres for the manufacture of agricultural implements, cutlery, minor tools and spare parts of machinery. The production of small tools and machinery might be accelerated at these places and the industry could

be organised in small workshops run on co-operative lines. Steel metal goods such as trunks, office boxes, iron safes, locks, chains, nuts, bolts and screws could also be produced extensively at Jullundur.

Cottage Tanning Industry: There are a good many village tanneries which specialise in the tanning of inferior leather. The bigger tanning factories, finding it unprofitable to work upon inferior qualities, confine their activities to the superior grades of leather. It is this which has enabled the village tanners to withstand the competition of the factory. The village tanners in the Punjab used to import a large part of inferior leather from the neighbouring provinces and re-export the surplus finished products to these provinces. The leather tanned by the village *chamars* is insufficiently tanned and has many defects which could be removed, if the workers are trained in scientific methods.

The village cobblers might be trained to make leather goods of common use and the workers could be organised to form co-operatives and given facilities for the procurement of superior leather and the purchase of sewing machines.

Hand-made Paper: Hand-made paper is a good typing medium, and considerable use could be found for it. The raw materials of the industry—waste paper, rags, etc.—are freely available. The industry could employ a very large number of evacuees.

Lac and Shellac Industry: The important centres of the industry are Hoshiarpur, Kangra, Amritsar and Jullundur. Lac products have also an export market which can be developed.

LARGE-SCALE INDUSTRIES

As East Punjab has become a frontier province, the establishment of any large-scale key industries might not be possible, at least, for the present. But the province offers much scope for industrial expansion. Many of its industrial products have not been properly exploited and some of them not even explored. East Punjab is specially suited for the promotion of the following large and medium-scale industries:

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Textiles | 10. Button-making |
| 2. Vegetable ghee and oil | 11. Match industry |
| 3. Tea | 12. Turpentine, paints and varnishes |
| 4. Breakfast foods | 13. Soap works and other subsidiary chemicals |
| 5. Biscuit factories | 14. Tannery |
| 6. Railway workshops | 15. Printing and book-binding |
| 7. Steel smelting and rolling mills | 16. Building Materials |
| 8. Hydraulic Engineering | 17. Saw mills |
| 9. Coach-building and motor car repairing | |

Textiles : Though East Punjab grows enough cotton for its own mills, it fails to satisfy its own demand for textiles. There is an extensive demand for cotton yarn and piece-goods. The Government of India have sanctioned the establishment of a textile mill at Delhi. The mill at Bhiwani might also be expanded. One or two spinning mills could be set up especially to meet the requirements in yarn of the handloom, hosiery and carpet industries. Besides, a woollen mill might be established at Fazilka which is the biggest woollen market of the region, as also in Hissar which lies adjacent to the Bikaner tract, well known for the fine quality of its wool. A new clothing factory to meet the requirements of Railway, Police and Military personnel could also be set up. More than 2,000 workers might be absorbed in these factories.

Food : The tea industry in the Kangra and Kulu Valleys could be developed. The industry would have an overseas market yielding considerable foreign exchange. The biscuit industry, too, might be encouraged. Some vegetable oil mills might be set up at Khanna and Ludhiana, and oils could be refined to serve as substitutes for vegetable ghee.

Engineering Workshops : East Punjab today is without an up-to-date railway workshop. Loco and carriage shops, motor repair and coach building works could be set up, preferably at Kalka, Jullundur and Amritsar. As many as 6,000 persons can be employed in these workshops, and if the expansion is planned, efficient personnel can be trained up by the refugee technicians from Lahore. An equal number of persons could be absorbed in an ordnance factory which might best be set up near Ambala Cantonment. A large-scale ordnance factory may be put up in U.P. Steel smelting and rolling mills at Lahore employed several thousand workers. There were as many as three electric furnaces for smelting steel at Lahore. They made use of scrap disposed of by the N.W. Railway. Rolling mills and structural steel works may be established at Amritsar, Jullundur, Karnal, Ambala, Kalka and Delhi. Another notable industry of Lahore was hydraulic engineering which turned out tube-well pipes and other accessories. Tube-well irrigation is likely to extend in East Punjab, so the industry has a wide field, particularly at Ambala, Jullundur and Hoshiarpur. The button industry for which the Punjab was well known could be re-established in East Punjab.

Chemicals : Match factories might well be set up near the Simla Hills where wood for the purpose is easily available. Lahore produced large quantities of paints and varnishes. The industry is very sensitive to climatic conditions and the

Research Laboratories of the Government could examine the question of proper sites and other facilities for the paint industry in East Punjab. There is a great future for the turpentine industry. Turpentine is produced from resin which is available in the forests of East Punjab and in the Sirmur State. A few large-scale soap works, preferably at Ludhiana and Khanna, could be established so as to produce better varieties of soap.

Leather Works : As the cottage tanner fails to produce quality leather, scientific tanning on a large scale could be encouraged in the province. The existing tanning institute at Jullundur might be reorganised in order to cater specially to the needs of the leather works.

Printing : There is an urgent need for a separate printing press for the East Punjab Government. Moreover, with a separate University for East Punjab and the growth of educational institutions, there will be ample scope for several presses in the province. A photostatic press may be put up near Ambala or wherever the new Capital of East Punjab is located.

Wood and Stone : The lack of building material would seriously hamper the execution of an extensive building programme in the proposed new towns. There is, therefore, unlimited scope for saw mills and timber works, cement, tile and brick factories. A few saw mills could be started in the Simla Hills, while many brick and tile factories could be distributed all over East Punjab. There is already a cement factory at Surajpur, but there is room for its expansion.

China Clay : There are large deposits of good China clay in Delhi, Mehrauli and Gurgaon. If an organisation is set up to process this clay, a number of pottery works might be started. This industry could employ at least 2,000 evacuees.

Organisation and Finance : The cottage industries could best be organised on co-operative lines, as in China, Russia, and more recently in Bombay. The object of Industrial Co-operative Societies, or 'Induscos' as they are called, is to substitute for joint stock companies, an economic organisation in which power is decentralised and the means of production are owned and controlled collectively and co-operatively. The direction and control of industry is vested not in the irresponsible capitalist or managing agent, but the workers themselves who run it through an elected committee of management. The planning and direction of cottage industries might well be entrusted to a Development Board whose business it should be to study the problems and difficulties of the existing cottage industries and plan and direct new ones on scientific lines.

The Board should not only give advice but also watch the activities of the co-operative societies with a view to ensuring efficient management.

Trade : An overwhelming percentage of the trade in West Punjab was in the hands of Hindu and Sikh merchants. As the Muslim evacuees of East Punjab were largely agriculturists, there will be no room in East Punjab for the non-Muslim businessmen from Pakistan who are likely to number about 1,50,000. The task of employing this surplus of businessmen is at present not an easy one. But it is expected that a substantial number of them will start on their own in spite of difficulties. Most of the evacuees depending upon trade come from the prosperous *mandis* of the canal colonies in West Punjab. There is hardly any scope for setting up new *mandis* in East Punjab until the completion of the Bhakra Dam Project. In the neighbouring provinces, particularly in the U.P., however, new *mandis* may be developed so as to provide work for some of the evacuees.

Petty Shopkeepers : Non-availability of shops is the main difficulty of the petty shopkeepers, as the number of shops vacated by Muslims is much too small to accommodate them all. Some of these shopkeepers have been allotted premises in the towns ; others may be encouraged to settle in the villages. The Government should undertake the task of opening new business centres so as to absorb the rest. Given these facilities they can safely be depended upon to start on their own, for the initial capital required by them is very small. In deserving cases, the Government may grant small interest-free loans, recoverable in easy instalments over a period of five years.

Consumer's Co-operative Stores : Moreover, the State should encourage the small shopkeepers to restart their businesses on co-operative lines. The wide introduction of consumer's co-operative stores would be very useful ; and the introduction of the 'Home Delivery' system would be a novel system in the country, affording wide-scale employment.

Large-scale Business : Large-scale business establishments and joint stock companies dislocated in Pakistan might also be assisted by the Government by the grant of amortisation loans on the personal security of the directors or such stocks as the firm might have to offer as security. Such loans, however, would necessarily be small—not exceeding, say Rs. 20,000/- and refundable within a period of five years or so. The Government, however, must have adequate security for

them. Moreover, banks might be encouraged to lend money to such businessmen as can be resettled with Government aid.

Banks, Insurance Cos. and Investment Trusts : Communal disturbances have dislocated the banking business both in East and West Punjab. Banks have, therefore, withdrawn their normal banking facilities, to the detriment of industry and trade. Three popular banks have recently been involved in serious financial difficulties and have had to declare a moratorium. As their credit and goodwill are likely to have been adversely affected, they should be induced to amalgamate and start afresh. The great need of the country is to have a few strong banks with an adequate number of branches and pay offices.

Transport Workers : The total number of displaced persons engaged in the transport business is likely to be about 45,000. Those engaged in the transportation of agricultural commodities should not exceed 30,000. People belonging to this class are largely self-employers ; and it is not unlikely that with the resettlement of evacuees on the land and the return to normal conditions, the great majority of them will rehabilitate themselves. The supply of improved varieties of carts to those who need them at cost price on a hire-purchase basis would be invaluable.

The number of persons engaged in the transport business in urban areas is likely to be 15,000. Factories for the manufacture of carts and carriages, rickshaws and *tongas* might be set up and these vehicles might be supplied to evacuees on a hire-purchase basis. This would mean not only increased transport facilities, for which there is urgent need, but also employment for all the displaced transport workers.

The majority of the people formerly engaged in transport work in East Punjab and Delhi were Muslims and their exodus has created a definite gap which has to be bridged. Further, if licenses are issued for the import of buses, trucks, lorries and cars, a considerable body of people could be profitably employed in body-building and driving. These vehicles are not purely consumer goods. As auxiliaries of industry and trade, they are semi-capital goods.

East Punjab needs a Railway Workshop. If the work on the expansion of Kanchrapara Workshop is taken in hand immediately, some evacuees would find employment.

Liberal Professions : The liberal professions are overcrowded even in normal times and the problem of settling the educated unemployed has always proved to be one of extreme difficulty.

The following is likely to be the distribution of displaced persons belonging to the various liberal professions :—

Profession	Estimated number
1. Medicine	... 7,500
2. Instruction	... 7,500
3. Law	... 7,500
4. Letters, Arts and Science	... 7,500
5. Religion	... 22,500
Total	... 52,500

Engineers and Technicians : As a rule India is deficient in technicians, but on account of the recent dislocation there has been an influx of technicians and engineers from West Pakistan. On the other hand, the mechanics and technicians in Delhi were predominantly Muslim. Their exodus has created a vacuum. If a proper census were taken of the technicians available among the evacuees, there is little doubt that it would be possible to absorb them all. The Central, Provincial and State governments have heavy programmes of public works ; and if their requirements were pooled by a Central agency, the task of rehabilitating evacuee technicians would become easier.

Doctors : There are probably over 7,500 doctors, *vaid*s and *hakims*, compounders and chemists among the evacuees. As a result of the influx of people into the towns of East Punjab, Delhi and the neighbouring areas, there would naturally be need for more doctors, compounders, etc. Not all these people might find it possible to re-establish themselves in private practice. But in India medical facilities are particularly defective, and qualified doctors have always been in short supply. The United Provinces Government alone requires 3,000 rural dispensaries. East Punjab might want half the number. It will, however, be difficult to build so many hospitals immediately. Therefore, a start could be made with mobile dispensaries. The system of panel practice might also be introduced with advantage.

Lawyers : The problem of employing displaced lawyers is by far the most difficult ; and their number would be in the neighbourhood of 27,500. There is no doubt that some of those in established practice will be able to rehabilitate themselves ; but the rehabilitation of the struggling lawyer would in any

case be an uphill task. Many of them, however, will have to take to some other professions, such as teaching and business.

Teachers : The number of displaced persons engaged in teaching is about 7,500. The student community in West Pakistan consisted largely of Hindus and Sikhs and they will now need to be educated either in East Punjab, Delhi or the neighbouring provinces. The Central Advisory Education Board has a scheme for the expansion of educational facilities in the country. Even if a part of this scheme were put into immediate effect, a considerable number of teachers would be absorbed. The services of teachers might also profitably be utilised for social work. There is also need for an extensive literacy drive in the country and primary education must be widely spread. If the Ministry of Education provide a primary school for every village in East Punjab and a middle or high school for each town with a population of 1,000 to 2,000, many displaced teachers could find employment.



"The Governmental mechanism needed to cope with the problem of rehabilitation is being constantly reviewed and reorganised, so as to ensure high-powered direction and efficient execution. But nevertheless no one realises in a higher degree than myself that there is much that remains to be done. It is this fact of the achievement being far short of the needs, though in all conscience all concerned have put out their best efforts, that makes my task heavier and more difficult. The Government needs all the help that can be given by the people to whom we are responsible in dealing with this matter. There can be no slackening of efforts, there should not be any mitigation of the intelligent interest and generous sympathy shown by all classes of people all over India."

The Hon'ble Mr. K. C. Neogy.

CHAPTER VI

GOVERNMENTS, STATES AND VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS

IN the task of evacuating the refugees from Pakistan to India and providing them with relief, almost all the Ministries of the Government of India have played a significant part. No less important has been the role played by the various Indian States affected by this mass migration. The Provinces of India have also offered to do their utmost to help the unfortunate people who have come from Pakistan. The voluntary organisations, too, have done much to provide relief to the refugees.

Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation

The evacuation of non-Muslims from West Punjab to East Punjab and of Muslims in the opposite direction commenced even before the partition of India, but it gained momentum after the 15th August. The first step the Government of India took to deal with what then appeared to be a small movement was to appoint a Refugee Commissioner and to try to regulate it with the aid of the military available on the spot. As the volume of the movement increased in both directions, it was found necessary to have a separate organisation for the orderly evacuation and dispersal, relief and rehabilitation of evacuees. On September 6, 1947, the Prime Minister informed the Cabinet that he had invited Mr. K. C. Neogy to join the Cabinet and to take charge of a special Ministry for the relief and rehabilitation of refugees. The new Minister was sworn in the same afternoon.

The very first act of the Ministry was to set in motion the Military Evacuation Organisation at Amritsar. Altogether about 700 lorries were made available by the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation to the M.E.O. These were ultimately organised by the M.E.O. into civilian Transport Companies. The range of the M.E.O. was, however, limited, as these lorries

could not penetrate deep into the Punjab. To keep up the morale, therefore, it was decided to start evacuation by air. While air evacuation kept up the morale, distant parts of the Punjab and N.W.F.P. could not be cleared within any measurable time by these means. As early as the 5th October, therefore, Shri Neogy took up with the Pakistan Government the question of evacuation by rail.

Simultaneously with evacuation, problems of relief and various questions incident to evacuation had to be tackled. People coming into India, for example, wanted their belongings, their savings bank deposits, their cash certificates and other property transferred to the Indian Dominion. While the Ministry was more concerned with the evacuation of persons, those coming over were more anxious for their belongings.

Negotiations went on with the Pakistan Government in regard to property. It was agreed on both sides that bank accounts should be allowed to be transferred. But on account of the disturbances, the banks in West Punjab generally did not function, as the non-Muslim staff had come away. Even now the transfer of bank accounts has not been effected in most cases. Relief measures were adopted in regard to savings bank accounts, cash certificates and pensions. Ultimately, many of these questions were settled by agreement at an inter-Dominion Conference held at the Secretariat level from the 18th to the 20th December. Negotiations are still going on, however, in regard to movable and immovable property left behind by the evacuees on either side.

Simultaneously with these measures, relief had to be organised in camps; tents had to be ordered in large numbers and their movement by rail expedited. Blankets, *razais* and other clothing had to be found and moved.

From a camp of 30,000, the population at the Kurukshetra camp shot up to 300,000 within a month and a tremendous organisational effort had to be made to keep pace with the influx of the refugees. The Ministry received considerable assistance from the Ministry of Health in the organisation of medical aid and relief. It also received a good deal of help from the Ministry of Food in making arrangements for food supplies. It is a great tribute to the organisation of the camp that the arrangements never broke down. The camp is now well established and is a model for the whole of India. The UNRRA experts who visited the camp were considerably impressed by its organisation. The camps at Delhi also are now under the care of the Ministry, though the immediate responsibility for them rests with the Chief Commissioner.

Side by side with evacuation and relief, the Ministry has had to work out schemes of rehabilitation. The most important question was the assistance to be given to agriculturists. A scheme has now been devised and circulated to all Provincial Governments and States, under which an attempt has been made to co-ordinate the interests of the agriculturists, the States and Provinces concerned, as well as of those of the Central Government.

The largest population, the future of which is still uncertain, is the urban refugees. A scheme for assisting them has also been worked out and communicated to all Provincial Governments and States. The Ministry has now taken up the question of creating satellite townships around Delhi. It may be possible thereby to rehabilitate a few hundred thousand refugees.

The sudden outburst of communal fury in Karachi has made evacuation from Sind imperative and the Ministry has immediately to set up an organisation for the evacuation and relief of refugees from Sind. It has also to consider long-term plans for the rehabilitation of Sindhis who have no homeland to go to corresponding to East Punjab.

A brief description of some of the important offices functioning under the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation may be attempted here.

There is a Custodian of Evacuee Property (Delhi Province) who receives applications for allotment of houses left by the evacuees. A Custodian of Evacuee Property has also been appointed for East Punjab. There is a Registrar of Claims who makes a record of property left in Pakistan by the refugees. Special forms for recording particulars of property left, including standing crops, livestock, household effects, bank deposits, etc., are prescribed for this purpose.

The Information and Search Service has been organised with the help of the Indian Red Cross Society with the object of helping refugees and others to obtain information on the whereabouts of relations and friends. A card is maintained in respect of each enquiry and the enquirer is informed of the result when the necessary information has been collected. The Information Bureau deals with all correspondence from individuals on matters not covered by the three organisations described above. The Bureau collects, by personal interrogation, information about the location and condition of Hindus and Sikhs stranded in Pakistan. Accounts of incidents in which hardship and distress had been caused before or during evacuation are received and kept in a special section of the Bureau. There is also a

Fact Finding Branch to collect authentic information about atrocities committed on non-Muslims in Pakistan.

The Supply and Stores Branch deals with clothing, food and medicines required for the refugees and all questions relating to refugee camps. To ensure that stores required for relief work are procured and despatched to receiving centres expeditiously, the Ministry have detailed Supply Movement Officers to supervise the procurement, loading and quick movement of wagons to their destinations.

The Relief and Rehabilitation Section of the Ministry is divided into two parts, viz., Urban and Rural. This section deals with the employment, training and education of refugees and their children, advises States and Provinces in the matter of resettlement of refugees, looks after the supply of implements and livestock to agriculturists and the dispersal of refugees. The various forms of financial assistance given to the refugees also come under the purview of this section.

There is also a Women's Section in the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation. This section has been entrusted with the task of organising relief for women and children, particularly unattended women and children. It helps in the recovery of abducted women and their subsequent training and rehabilitation.

The Advisory Committee attached to the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation advises the Government regarding relief and rehabilitation measures. Recommendations made by this Committee are given the most serious consideration by the authorities. This Committee has a Secretariat located in the Government of India Secretariat, New Delhi.

Ministry of Defence

"The Military Evacuation Organisation has performed a feat unheard of and unparalleled in the history of the world. Every man and woman in East Punjab today looks with pride and gratitude on the work the members of the M.E.O. have done. But for their efforts we would have lost many of our brethren and sisters in West Punjab. This onerous task has been performed at great personal risk". This tribute was paid by the Premier of East Punjab to the M.E.O. which had successfully evacuated 4,000,000 non-Muslims from West Punjab under very trying conditions. Reference has already been made in Chapter II to the great achievement of the M.E.O. The army's aid to the refugees extended beyond the mere provision of transportation. After the refugees had been moved safely to the Indian Union, the

army undertook to run some of the refugee camps, provided medical relief and did everything possible to relieve the immediate distress of the refugees. The tasks which faced the Ministry of Defence always held priority and they were done with the characteristic efficiency and promptitude of the Indian Army. The Medical Directorate, Army Headquarters, have supplied about 500 hospital beds in Jullundur, not to mention 3,300 pounds of evaporated milk powder for expectant mothers and children. Where normal hospital facilities are not available, mobile hospital units have been formed to look after seven or eight refugee camps.

The Indian Army has provided a field ambulance, a surgical unit, an anti-malaria unit, a field hygiene section and motor ambulances. To equip hospitals 320 beds were supplied to the Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals, East Punjab. Over 300 beds in the military hospitals at Jullundur, Delhi and Ambala were placed at the disposal of the civil authorities. Twenty-two medical officers were detailed to work in various stations in East Punjab to carry out mass inoculation against cholera in the refugee camps and to establish medical inspection rooms. The Army also provided 250 tons of equipment, including penicillin, sulpha drugs, blood plasma, D.D.T., surgical instruments and equipment, and anti-malaria equipment. Ambulance cars accompanied by medical officers and nursing orderlies, with first aid equipment, were detailed to collect the sick and wounded refugees both in East and West Punjab.

Ministry of Transport and Railways

In September, 1947, this Ministry was asked by the East Punjab Government to arrange for the supply of spare parts and tyres for about 450 motor vehicles employed at Amritsar and Jullundur for the evacuation of refugees from West Punjab to East Punjab and *vice versa*. The Ministry immediately made arrangements for the supply of spare parts and batteries for these vehicles and also arranged for the priority movement of these parts from Bombay to Amritsar and Jullundur. As regards tyres and tubes no stock was available in Delhi and arrangements had to be made to obtain them by passenger train, under special priority, from the Dunlop Factory at Sahebganj in West Bengal.

A special allocation of 50,000 gallons of petrol to the East Punjab Government and of 26,000 gallons of petrol to certain Punjab States has been sanctioned for evacuation and relief work. A special allocation of 30,000 gallons of petrol was made to the Government of Bombay to enable 508 trucks to move by road from Bombay to Sulemanki. The petrol supply position in

the depots of East Punjab has been kept under constant review and, whenever necessary, special supplies will be sent from Bombay to supplement those coming from Karachi.

Special priority assistance has been given by the railways for the movement of large quantities of goods such as tents, black corrugated sheets, raw wool, blankets, coats, shorts, *dasuti* cloth, flour (*atta*), milk powder, etc., intended for the use of evacuees. The Road Transport Officer was deputed early in September to East Punjab to help in the organisation of civil transport for the movement of refugees. The services of staff belonging to this Ministry have also been temporarily lent free of charge to the Provincial Government to work the scheme.

The East Punjab Railway had been crippled by the lack of staff due to partition, but the Railway Board met the situation by calling for volunteer crews from other railways. Towards the end of September, late and unprecedented floods added to the misery of the refugees. Many refugees and cattle were drowned. Road and rail services were completely disrupted. Assisted by the staff of railways, army engineers made road diversions, repaired flood-damaged roads and railway line.

Ministry of Communications

The contribution of the Ministry of Communications in tackling the general problems of refugees consisted, in so far as it concerned civil aviation, in arranging for transport by air of non-Muslim evacuees from West Pakistan and Muslim evacuees from Delhi. Towards the end of August, 1947, the Government decided to provide facilities for transport of evacuees by air from different points in Pakistan. Accordingly, about 10 aircraft belonging to the various Indian air transport companies were called to Delhi. The system adopted was that any person desiring to charter an aircraft was to make an application to the special authority created for the purpose, namely, the Controlling Authority, Air Transport for Refugees. Under this system, an average of 6 to 7 aircraft operated daily from Delhi to transport evacuees from Sargodha, Lyallpur, Multan and Rawalpindi to Amritsar or Delhi. In addition, scheduled air services between Delhi and Karachi, Quetta, Lahore, Rawalpindi and Peshawar were intensified. It is estimated that about 8,000 persons were evacuated by air from West Pakistan between August 29 and September 14, 1947.

From September 15, 1947, a new system was introduced under which the Government itself chartered aircraft from various companies in order to evacuate its personnel and their

families without payment from the above-mentioned places as well as Dera Ismail Khan, Risalpur, Mianwali, Chakwal and Kohat. Any empty space available on any particular occasion was utilised to evacuate private persons also on payment. From about the 20th October, 1947, space on such aircraft was made available to all persons including Government servants willing to pay for their passage, but yet another change was subsequently introduced under which Government servants were carried free.

During the first five weeks, namely up to October 20, 1947, only Indian air transport companies were engaged in evacuation work and about 12 aircraft were used daily for the purpose. During the next week, however, the number of aircraft rose to about 25 per day, the additional aircraft being chartered from the B.O.A.C.

On outward journeys from Delhi, a part of the space on aircraft was utilised to transport medical personnel and medical stores, including vaccines to East Punjab. All the remaining space was made available to the Chief Commissioner of Delhi and the High Commissioner of Pakistan in Delhi for the transport of Muslim evacuees.

From September 15, 1947, the date from which the Government began chartering the aircraft, till November 18, 1947, the aircraft of the Indian operating companies covered about 3,15,000 miles and carried about 5,400 evacuees from West Pakistan to Amritsar, Ambala and Delhi and about 4,100 Muslim evacuees from Delhi to points in West Pakistan. The gross mileage charges for this purpose are estimated to have been about Rs. 1,570,000. During the same period, the B.O.A.C. aircraft covered a total distance of 492,000 miles and transported about 18,000 persons from West Punjab to India and about 12,000 Muslim evacuees from Delhi to Pakistan. The charges payable by the Government for the B.O.A.C. operations may amount to about Rs. 3,600,000 of which about Rs. 1,500,000 would be on account of empty haulage between India and U.K.

The Ministry of Communications had sanctioned two months' pay as an advance to all the Post and Telegraph staff coming from Pakistan for resettlement. The Ministry also sanctioned 3 months' pay as an advance to those officials who had lost all their belongings.

In order to provide facilities for refugees from Western Pakistan who have not been able to transfer their savings bank accounts or post office cash or other saving certificates to post offices in India, it has been decided to allow

withdrawals from postal savings banks and to provide facilities for the encashment of these certificates on a limited basis in respect of investments made prior to August 14, 1947. Cash and other certificates issued from post offices in Western Pakistan and tendered for transfer at Indian Post Offices will be treated as formally transferred, and the necessary intimation containing full particulars of these certificates will be sent to the Pakistan Government. Holders of Insurance Policies issued by the Postal Department prior to August 14, 1947, who were paying their premia in cash to post offices in Pakistan have been allowed to credit their premia in post offices in India.

The Post and Telegraph Department has allowed free postage concession on parcels containing clothing for refugees.

Ministry of Food and Agriculture

The Ministry of Food and Agriculture has taken an active interest in the problem of food for refugees and has posted their representatives permanently at Jullundur and Ambala in order to give every help to East Punjab in this matter. The requirements of the East Punjab Government for the refugees, whether incoming or outgoing, as well as the requirements of the province itself are being actively considered and the Provincial Government has been given to understand that all grains used by them for refugees will be re-imbursed to them. In accordance with this, an allotment of 10,000 tons was made during October and 18,000 tons during November.

The problem of seed in East Punjab also became serious. The reasons were that the outgoing Muslims took their stocks away with them, or else the stocks were looted, and the incoming Hindus and Sikhs had no stocks to use as seed. The Food Ministry has asked the East Punjab Government to utilise as much as required from the provincial stocks for seed and these quantities are being replaced.

The Ministry of Food took charge of the food supplies to Kurukshetra Camp on the 29th October, 1947. Till the middle of December, 1947, 1,538 tons of wheat flour (*atta*), 20 tons of sugar and 2 tons of salt had been made available to this camp. In addition to *atta*, sugar and salt, this Ministry has also undertaken to supply rice, *dals*, vegetable ghee or oil and condiments. A Food Officer of this Ministry has been deputed to work there ; he is in constant touch with the Camp Commandant and supervises the receipt of supplies made to him. Arrangements to obtain 310 tons of milk powder for East Punjab were made with the Bombay Government. 210 tons have already

been despatched from Bombay to Jullundur and 100 tons to Karnal. The Food Ministry also made arrangements for the supply of the grain required by the M.E.O. at Amritsar to feed the starving refugees in West Punjab whom they were evacuating.

Efforts are being made by the Ministry of Agriculture to import 220 tractors by March, 1948, for a project which aims at mechanical cultivation of land in East Punjab for the next *kharif* season. At the instance of the Government of India oil companies are arranging to supply sufficient quantities of high speed diesel oil to the East Punjab Government for the tractors already supplied. About 200,000 acres of fallow land could be secured and made available to agriculturist refugees for rehabilitation in East Punjab, if tubewell irrigation could be arranged, and this matter is at present under consideration by the Government of India and the Government of East Punjab. Meanwhile a consignment of 1,000 tons of sulphate of ammonia is on its way from Bombay to various destinations in East Punjab for distribution amongst farmers as fertiliser.

The question of affording facilities to refugee firms dealing in fruit preservation is under consideration. Licences are being issued by the Ministry of Agriculture to selected fruit preservers, some of whom have already started work. These firms are being given sugar permits after inspection on the basis of the normal quota of sugar which they used in Pakistan.

Some six miles from the historic ruins of ancient Hastinapur, the first large-scale mechanical operations have been begun by the Ministry of Agriculture. Heavy tractors are at work turning up the virgin soil of the Ganga Khadar tract of the U.P., which for centuries has remained a waste land. These tractors, used first on the Stillwell Road, have been reconditioned in the Central Tractor Organisation, and are operated by trained men, the majority of whom are refugees.

The U.P. Government, assisted by the Indian Government, will have reclaimed about 20,000 acres of waste land by May this year and village colonies will be established. Individual holdings will not be less than ten acres and not over 20 acres in extent, and no fragmentation will be allowed. The size of each village will be 500 acres. Among the colonists, preference will be given to refugees and ex-soldiers.

Ministry of Health

The Ministry of Health made arrangements for the supply of medical stores to and the recruitment of medical,

public health, nursing and other personnel for the refugee camps in East Punjab. For this purpose a separate section called the Refugee Medical Relief Section has been opened under a Deputy Director-General of Health Services, for a period of six months, in the first instance. A Refugee Medical Relief Committee has also been constituted by the Ministry with the Director-General of Health Services as Chairman. This Committee will consider problems of refugee medical relief. With a view to meeting the sudden demand on medical stores for refugee work in East Punjab, a Medical Store Depot has been started at New Delhi and urgent requirements of essential drugs, such as penicillin, sulpha drugs, vaccines, etc., have been promptly met by the Ministry. A small medical store depot has been established at Kurukshetra Camp. Frequent visits have been made by the officers of the Ministry to refugee centres in East Punjab with a view to ascertaining their medical requirements. The Ministry had sent 55 doctors to East Punjab up to October 31. As the Central Government has accepted responsibility for the organisation and running of the refugee camp at Kurukshetra, the office of the Director-General of Health Services is responsible for medical and public health arrangements at the camp. The Ministry's public health arrangements are utilised at present to supplement the Army Field Hygiene Section. It is proposed to have a 500-bed hospital and a separate infectious diseases hospital at Kurukshetra Camp. The Hon'ble Minister for Health has taken personal interest in the problem of refugees and has paid many visits to the refugee centres. At the request of the Government of India, the Governments of Bombay, Madras, U.P., Bihar and West Bengal have made special arrangements for the admission of a certain number of non-Muslim medical students from Pakistan.

The Ministry of Health did splendid work at the Purana Qila Muslim Refugee Camp when it was taken over by the Government of India. Prompt arrangements for medical relief and sanitation were made at the camp which was placed in charge of a Military Medical Officer. Three Lady Health Visitors attended the expectant and nursing mothers and infants and these were provided with fresh milk. The Humayun Tomb Camp which was also a camp for Muslim refugees was placed in charge of a retired I.M.S. Officer who attended to the medical requirements of the camp. As a result of suspected cases of cholera, nine doctors were specially engaged to carry out mass inoculation. Both the Hon'ble Minister for Health and the Director-General of Health Services with the Government

of India paid frequent visits to both these camps, to which drugs, dressings, etc., were supplied free by the local Health authorities.

Ministry of Works, Mines and Power

When thousands of refugees belonging to the Government of India Services began to pour into Delhi, the Works, Mines and Power Ministry had to strain its resources to the utmost to provide accommodation for these displaced officers. The following arrangements were made for the housing of officers and staff arriving from the Pakistan area :

Officers arriving by air or otherwise were accommodated in Constitution House and York Hostel.

For clerks, arrangements were made in the Kitchener Road and in the Lodi Road Hostels.

A number of family quarters in Lodi Colony were also allotted to clerical staff arriving by air.

A transit camp was opened in the Matapan barracks on Muttra Road to give immediate shelter to clerks arriving by rail.

All available quarters classed as "Special Accommodation" were allotted temporarily to officials coming from Pakistan in preference to 10,000 officials of the Government of India who were already on the waiting list.

The Ministry has also assumed responsibility for the engineering equipment functioning at the Kurukshetra Camp.

Ministry of Home Affairs

With a view to assisting the East Punjab Government to tackle the refugee problem 28 probationers of the Indian Administrative Service who were undergoing training in Delhi were deputed during the first week of September, 1947. The Ministry of Home Affairs have also set up a Transfer Bureau to assist in the resettlement of Central Government servants who were found to be redundant in their parent Ministries. It was decided later that the Bureau should also register employees of the Governments of N.W.F.P., Sind and Baluchistan. So far over 1,300 employees have been registered in the Bureau and of these 921 applicants have been nominated against specific vacancies considered suitable from the point of view of pay and experience. In cases where the qualifications and experience of an individual do not exactly fit in with the qualifications required for the vacancies reported to the Transfer Bureau, his name is circulated to all the Ministries where there might be a suitable place for him.

The question of resettling refugees in the Andamans is also under the consideration of the Ministry of Home Affairs. Forests constitute the main wealth of the Islands and hitherto only a part of the forest wealth has been extracted under Government supervision in the South Andamans. A scheme for the leasing out of about 700 square miles of forest to private enterprise under Government control is under discussion and is expected to materialise in the near future. When the scheme does materialise there will be considerable scope for labourers of all classes to find employment in the forests and ancillary industries which will be established.

Ministry of Information and Broadcasting

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting had the onerous task of keeping the public informed of the hour-to-hour course of the mass migration of millions. This was no easy task when communications had failed and reliable information from the country towns was difficult to obtain. In spite of the many difficulties, the Ministry had always kept the public informed of every development relating to the problems of evacuation and rehabilitation by means of *communiqués*, and 'unofficial notes'. To bring news to non-Muslim refugees, the Government undertook the free distribution of thousands of copies of newspapers, at first by air and subsequently by rail, in Jullundur, Amritsar, Lahore, Ferozepore, Ludhiana and Gurdaspur.

The All India Radio has been responsible for much valuable work through its broadcast messages to refugees. In August, 1947, A.I.R. began to receive a considerable number of such requests for messages addressed to the disturbed areas in the Punjab and the immediate neighbourhood of Delhi: (a) to assure relatives in disturbed areas about the safety of particular members of their families and (b) to help in tracing missing persons. The Delhi station started the broadcast of messages in Hindustani from the 22nd August, 1947 with an initial duration of 5 minutes daily. The number of messages gradually increased and the time devoted daily in the first week of November, 1947, was 180 minutes. During the peak period roughly 1,400 messages were received every day out of which 100 related to priority of booking of air passages. The Central News Organisation has also given prompt publicity to urgent announcements received through the Ministry of Rehabilitation about the evacuation of Government personnel from various places in Pakistan. This humanitarian work has proved of immense value to a considerable number of people in distress.

Owing to the dislocation of communications and the pressing needs of rehabilitation, it was felt that a broadcasting station would fulfil some of the essential requirements of the new Province of East Punjab which has been deprived of the broadcasting service previously supplied by the Lahore Centre of All India Radio. A.I.R. has now extended its network to the new province. On November 1, a new broadcasting station was opened at Jullundur. This will soon be followed by a relay station at Amritsar. Installation work at Jullundur took just about a month to complete. A seventy-five-minute programme of the five-hour service from Jullundur originates from that city, the remainder being relayed from Delhi. More than half the items of the 75-minute programme are of a 'utility' nature, including talks by Ministers and the Government spokesman, and information to be conveyed to the public on matters such as rehabilitation and the maintenance of peace and order. Entertainment items consist of folk music, recitation of Punjabi poetry and short plays. Addressed to urban and rural listeners alike, much of the programme originating from Jullundur is broadcast in Punjabi. The relay from Delhi consists of news bulletins and items of special interest to East Punjab, supported by an entertainment programme which cannot at present be produced from Jullundur.

In addition, during the local announcement period, various announcements of interest to refugees are broadcast. Mahatma Gandhi's prayer meeting addresses, which often contained references to the refugees, used to be broadcast at 8-30 a.m. followed by a rebroadcast of the text of the address the next morning at 8-30 a.m.

With most of the evacuation schemes nearing completion, there is a noticeable drop in the number of messages received from the refugees enquiring about the whereabouts of their relations or intimating their own welfare to them. The time devoted to the daily broadcast of refugee messages has, therefore, been reduced from 2½ hours to 1¾ hours. There has also been a change in the complexion of messages inasmuch as a large number of the messages related either to people in Jammu and Kashmir or to those who had already been evacuated from Western Pakistan to different parts of India. Messages collected by Army Headquarters, India, concerning the welfare of Indian troops stationed in Pakistan continue to be broadcast thrice a week. Adequate publicity was also given to *communiqués* issued by the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation.

Ministry of Labour

The Ministry of Labour has played a vital role in the task of rehabilitating the refugees from Pakistan. Working through the medium of the Directorate-General of Resettlement and Employment, the Ministry has, from the very beginning, set itself two objectives, namely, to assist refugees to find employment and to arrange training facilities for them in appropriate technical and vocational trades.

In pursuance of the first objective the following steps have been taken: The Employment Exchange organisation in East Punjab has opened an office in each district. A special office has been opened at Bombay to deal with refugees. In Delhi three additional Employment Exchanges have been opened. Instructions have been issued to Employment Exchanges all over India to give every possible assistance to refugees in need of employment. As a result of this, many Employment Exchanges have been opened and sub-offices have started functioning in the refugee camps. Four sub-zonal officers have been sent to East Punjab with necessary conveyance to co-ordinate the work in that province. Special short courses of training have been given to them in order to prepare them particularly to deal with the problems affecting the refugees. Thousands of refugees have already been suitably placed through the efforts of the Employment Exchanges. Arrangements are being made to train about 10,000 refugees in the various technical and vocational centres of the Directorate General.

Ministry of Education

A number of steps have been taken by the Ministry of Education to cope with educational problems arising out of the displacement of a large number of teachers and students as a result of disturbances in West Punjab and other areas of Pakistan.

A Refugee Section was opened early in September to enable school teachers and students living in Delhi to register their requirements. To provide employment to teachers and educational facilities to students were the two major objectives to be achieved. By October 29, 800 school teachers had registered themselves. The educational institutions in Delhi, most of which are maintained by local bodies and private management, have agreed to employ displaced teachers. Five hundred and sixty teachers were interviewed by a Departmental Committee, out of whom 270 have been so far given employment. More are expected to be provided for shortly.

About 90 per cent of the widowed teachers have been appointed. It is proposed to approach the neighbouring Provinces and States with a view to their employing those who cannot be absorbed in the Delhi Province.

The Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation have arranged to give relief by way of loans through our Ambassadors, High Commissioners or Trade Commissioners to non-Muslim students and trainees from Western Pakistan, who are at present studying abroad and who for lack of funds are unable to continue their studies or training. In order to meet immediate and urgent cases, and pending the sanction of loans applied for, the Ambassador in the U.S.A., the High Commissioner in the U.K. and the Trade Commissioners elsewhere have been authorised to advance at their own discretion up to a maximum of £50 per head or its equivalent in other currencies. The question of extending this scheme to refugee students and trainees in India is under consideration.

A scheme for starting a Central Institute of Education, estimated to cost Rs. 22,45,000 is now being put into operation by the Government of India. The capacity of the Institute will be 300 of which 150 will be men and 150 women. A provision of Rs. 22,45,000 has been made in the current year's budget. Of this amount, Rs. 18,00,000 have been earmarked for buildings, Rs. 2,45,000 for equipment and Rs. 2,00,000 for recurring expenses. In order to give immediate assistance to refugees, a Camp College to accommodate 60 students will be started. Though the Institute will be open to all persons, refugees will be given preference.

Ministry of Industry and Supply

All stores held in the stock of the Directorate-General of Disposals were frozen so that they could be utilised for the relief and rehabilitation of refugees. The items which were reserved came under the following categories :

- (i) Cloth, garments of all sorts and blankets.
- (ii) Miscellaneous articles such as boots, soap, combs, toilet articles, etc.
- (iii) Kitchen utensils and table ware.
- (iv) Building materials, sheds, huts and tents.
- (v) Furniture and typewriters.

Orders were issued regarding the despatch of cloth, garments and other supplies required for relief to various centres both in East Punjab and elsewhere.

In regard to the plant, machinery and handtools, it is intended that the equipment required for small-scale industries should be kept for the refugees. Large-scale industries will require the formation of limited companies and the provision of considerable capital. Although such enterprises may be organised by refugees, they will have no special claim on Disposals Directorate's goods. The equipment that might be needed by such people as dentists, photographers, etc., or for individual industrial enterprises on a small-scale will be made available only to the refugees. A scrutiny of the Disposals Directorate's goods from this point of view is in progress.

HELP FROM PROVINCES

The total number of refugees in the United Provinces is estimated at 300,000. Of this about 20,000 are staying in refugee camps maintained by the Government. About 10,000 persons are given shelter by philanthropic organisations who are maintaining about 20 camps. The remaining refugees are staying in *dharamsalas*, lodging houses, rented houses or with relations and friends. The refugees began arriving in the U.P. about the month of March and the Provincial Government has taken every care from the beginning to make adequate provision for their housing, clothing, feeding, sanitation, etc. All the refugees have been given private accommodation. About 24,000 destitute refugees are being fed free at Government expense. A special quota of 9 yards of cloth per refugee has been allotted and, where necessary, the cost has been borne by the Government. Fifty thousand blankets and *razais* and 20,000 lbs. of wool have been distributed to the destitute in addition to considerable quantities already distributed by local charity. Special sanitary staffs have been engaged for all camps. These camps have their own schools for the children of the refugees.

As for rehabilitation, the Government has carried out an occupational census with the registration of the refugees. New branches of the Employment Exchanges have been opened wherever necessary and existing offices are taking a special interest in providing employment to the refugees. Quite a large number of them are likely to be absorbed in the life of the Province. By far the largest number of them belong to the petty traders' class who had business establishments in Pakistan. As it is not very easy to provide shops and goods to these people, special industrial schemes are being considered for this class of refugees. It is also proposed to offer them the same facilities for training in technical and vocational trades as are being offered to ex-soldiers.

There are a number of refugee camps in the Bombay Province and most of them are situated in Ahmedabad city. Clothing, medical and sanitary facilities have been provided at all these camps and free rations are issued. Every possible facility is being given for rehabilitation.

As a result of communal disturbances in November, 1946 in Bihar, a number of refugee camps for Muslims were opened to accommodate refugees until their houses were fit for occupation. Relief and rehabilitation measures for Bihari Muslim refugees include (1) house-building grant not exceeding Rs. 500 for each damaged building (2) free rations (3) supply of seeds and manures and (4) monetary aid to students, widows and orphans. More than 4,000 houses have been repaired till now and 60,000 refugees have been rehabilitated. About 22,000 have returned from Bengal. Apart from these Muslim refugees in Bihar there are also a number of non-Muslim refugees from Pakistan who are scattered all over the Province. Every facility is offered to these refugees from Pakistan with a view to settling them comfortably in the Province.

The Government of Madras has offered to take in 10,000 refugees from Pakistan and to keep them in the Province for a year or two until conditions in the North settle down again. So far, only about 600 refugees have arrived in the camps. Free rations and shelter are given by the Government and clothing has been made available from voluntary contributions. The Government of Madras have offered Rs. 100,000 as their contribution towards the maintenance of refugees.

In the Province of Orissa, there are two refugee camps housing 2,500 refugees. All the provinces in the Indian Union have offered to give special facilities for the rehabilitation of refugees as and when necessary.

HELP FROM INDIAN STATES

All the Indian States have offered to absorb as many refugees as possible. A plan under which nearly 15,000 families comprising roughly 75,000 refugees will be settled covers the following 8 Indian States : Gwalior, Indore, Ratlam, Kotah, Sangli (Deccan), Kolhapur, Alwar and Rewa.

Particulars of occupations available for refugees in these States under this plan have been circulated to the Camp Commandant Central Refugee Camp at Kurukshetra, and all Deputy Commissioners in East Punjab, West U.P. and Delhi. Instructions were issued that a representative refugee committee should be formed immediately and lists of refugee families

willing to proceed to each State should be drawn up. The Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation, on receiving information about families willing to proceed to these States, will arrange for their removal and a leader will be appointed for each group from among the refugees.

The dispersal of refugees from areas where there are already large concentrations is being organised. Before departing for resettlement, families selected for transfer are inoculated against cholera. The movement will take place in bulk and indigent refugees resident in camps are entitled to free transport.

Details of occupations available in each State are as follows :

Gwalior will absorb 5,000 refugees (1,000 families) in addition to nearly 10,000 refugees already in the State. About 500 of these families ready to cultivate and settle on the land will be absorbed in this manner. For each family, parcels of land will be earmarked by way of permanent colonisation. The remaining 500 families will consist of persons suitable and willing to be employed in the State Police and Army. A small proportion of self-sufficient traders and businessmen will also be absorbed. Refugees in the first instance will be sent to Gwalior and from there they will be taken in special trains of the Gwalior State Railway to Shiv Puri where they will be settled.

Indore has offered to absorb 7,000 refugees. Of these about 5,000 (1,000 families) will be settled on about 30,000 acres of good land available in rural areas. The remaining 2,000 will consist of agricultural labour who might settle down in villages and do odd jobs. A limited number of skilled artisans and technical men will also be absorbed.

Ratlam will absorb 5,000 refugees permanently. The State has shown a preference for refugees who are agriculturists, forest developers, artisans, masons, carpenters, blacksmiths and men suitable for the development of small industries like dairy farming and tin-making.

Kotah has agreed to absorb refugees who are traders, artisans, farmers and farm labourers.

Sangli (Deccan) will absorb 1,000 refugees (200 families), consisting mainly of agriculturists and agricultural labourers, in addition to carpenters, blacksmiths, weavers and sweepers, if available.

Kolhapur will take in about 400 skilled and unskilled personnel who can be absorbed with immediate effect in the Radha Nagri Hydro-Electric Works. Housing accommodation will be provided for refugees and they will receive the same remuneration as other employees. The State has also offered to have 150 Kshatriya Jats between the ages of 18 to 21 for the State Military Service.

Two refugee transit camps were started in Alwar early in May. About 8,000 refugees have already been settled and the State proposes to absorb 50,000 more refugees, preferably agriculturists who will be allotted land in the villages.

The Mysore State is willing to absorb about 5,000 refugees and provide them with work on daily wages at the site of the reservoir under construction in the north-western part of the State.

Faridkot has offered to take in 40,000 refugees, in addition to the 20,000 who are already there and Nabha could take about 50,000. The States of Jind and Kapurthala could absorb substantial numbers of refugees. All the States have promised their full co-operation in the solution of the problems which are facing the Dominion in consequence of the developments in West and East Pakistan.

The Baroda State has undertaken to afford temporary sanctuary to refugees arriving at Okha, which is the nearest port in India to Karachi. Already over 40,000 refugees have passed through this port. During their stay at Okha the refugees were given free meals, shelter in improvised camps and free medical aid. Normally the camp has a complement of about 5,000 refugees and any additional arrivals are sent to the Dwaraka Camp, situated about a dozen miles to the south of Okha. In the city of Baroda there are two camps. One of them is a transit camp accommodating about 500 refugees where free rations are distributed at the expense of the Government. The other camp is organised on a three-monthly basis and accommodates over 2,500 persons. It has well-laid water pipes and electric installation. The Government of Baroda have created a special Refugee Portfolio and entrusted it to a popular minister of the Prajamandal Party. Plans for rehabilitation in Baroda State include employment in State services of professional men like doctors, engineers, professors and skilled and semi-skilled workers, mechanics and artisans ; allotment of residential plots, reclamation of jungle areas on a limited scale, and encouragement to industrialists and businessmen who wish to start their own industries.

So far about 400,000 refugees have been given free food by voluntary organisations in Jodhpur. About 50,000 Sindhis have settled down in the State. A large number of refugees have been employed in the State P.W.D. and private industrial concerns. Some have settled down as shopkeepers.

The Patiala State has a number of refugee camps maintained by the State Government. When the Maharaja of Patiala announced that substantial financial aid would be given to those refugees who wished to start business, many thousands poured into the State. Quite a number of them have already settled in business in the various parts of the State and have made independent arrangements for their residence. Various steps have been taken by the State authorities to rehabilitate the refugees. Experienced military staff have been deputed to look after the comforts of these unfortunate people. Hutments and barracks in addition to hundreds of tents have been constructed costing the State nearly Rs. 300,000. Over Rs. 50,000 have been spent by the State on medicines and sanitation for the different refugee camps. The feeding of the refugees has cost the State about Rs. 700,000. The Maharaja has announced that the State will take 400,000 agricultural refugees for resettlement in the State. A Relief and Rehabilitation Committee has been formed with instructions to allot land at the rate of 60 to 80 *bighas* per family. During the short period of one month and nine days the rehabilitation committee has been able to settle over 120,000 farmers in the State, involving an area of 878,000 *bighas* covering 423 villages. A sum of Rs. 500,000 has been placed at the disposal of the Rehabilitation Committee for *taccavi* loans to those refugees who need financial help. In addition to this, seeds and cattle have been given to the new settlers at a nominal price to be repaid in easy instalments.

About 6,000 refugees, mostly Sikhs from the Bahawalpur State, were provided with food, medical help and clothing in Jaisalmer State. As these refugees preferred to go to their homes in East Punjab they were given free motor transport. Another batch of about 10,000 non-Muslims originally settled in Sind have now been rehabilitated in the State.

Three refugee camps were opened in three municipal towns of Kapurthala State, viz., Kapurthala, Phagwara and Sultanpur. These camps were run and controlled primarily by non-officials though financial assistance by the State was also available. The total number of refugees received in these camps amounted to about 20,000. The refugees were also housed in school buildings, college hostels, *dharamsalas*, and *gurudwaras*.

Large donations were collected from the public to meet the cost of providing food and other facilities to the inmates of these camps and the State has also contributed handsomely to this fund. The refugees were given free medical aid in all the State hospitals. These camps have now been closed as inmates have been settled on land and provided with permanent residential accommodation. A number of refugees have been absorbed in the State services. Practically all the technicians, artisans and trained hands from amongst the refugees have been given employment in the State. Nearly 100,000 refugees coming from Sialkot, Gujranwala, Gurdaspur and Sheikhpora have been settled on land as cultivators, and about 20,000 settled in the principal towns of the State. A sum of Rs. 450,000 has been sanctioned by His Highness's Government for giving *taccavi* loans to the refugees.

There are about 18,000 refugees in the Mewar State. The State has a special Refugee Department which distributes free rations, bedding and clothing to deserving cases. A number of houses, schools and colleges were commandeered to accommodate them. A sum of Rs. 50,000 has been sanctioned by the Government for the construction of temporary huts. There has been enthusiastic public response to the appeal for help for these unfortunate men.

In the Bharatpur State 2,500 refugees have already been settled, the State having reserved 44,000 acres of land for re-settlement.

Various concessions have been offered to the refugees who have settled down in the State of Partabgarh. No land tax will be imposed for the first five years and only half the assessment in the following five years; *taccavi* loans will be granted for the construction of wells and purchase of bullocks, suitable employment will be found in Government service and loans given for settling in smaller occupations. These are some of the facilities offered to the refugees. A colony of 1,100 plots for refugees is under construction and the Government has sanctioned Rs. 500,000 for this purpose.

United Council for Relief and Welfare

The United Council for Relief and Welfare consists of a large number of Voluntary Societies and Agencies who are undertaking many varied relief activities including the administration of refugee camps and general welfare services in camps. In addition to providing voluntary workers in the camps and hospitals and for refugee clinics, the Council has established two First Aid Posts and large

quantities of supplies including medical requirements, linen and clothing, milk and emergency food have been given to hospitals and refugee centres. Close liaison is maintained by the Council with the Official Departments whose services the Council is anxious to supplement in every way within its resources. The work is not restricted to Delhi province and close attention is being given to the needs of victims of the present disturbances and refugees elsewhere in conjunction with the authorities.

The United Council was the outcome of a general desire to set up a co-ordinating committee of all voluntary organisations and agencies undertaking or able to assist in relief measures for the refugees from Western Pakistan. On September 8, 1947, H. E. the Countess Mountbatten of Burma called at Government House, New Delhi, a meeting which was attended by certain officials and representatives of a number of voluntary organizations, viz., the Indian Red Cross Society, St. John Ambulance Association and Brigade, All-India Women's Conference, Congress Central Relief Committee and Kasturba Workers, Friends Service Unit, Girl Guides Association, Hindu Sahayata Samiti, National Christian Council, National Council of Women, Ramakrishna Mission, Women's Reserve Medical Unit, W.V.S. (I), Y.W.C.A., and Y.M.C.A. After discussion the United Council for Relief and Welfare was set up with H E. Lady Mountbatten as Chairman. The Council was later joined by the Boy Scouts Association, Hindustan Scouts Association, Marwari Relief Society, The Children's Aid Society, Caravan of India, Central Hindu Reclamation Board and the Rotary Club.

The Council started functioning immediately after its formation and relief units, doctors, St. John Ambulance squads and welfare workers of the National Christian Council, the Y.W.C.A. School of Social Services and other organisations were posted to refugee camps at Delhi, Amritsar, Jullundur and Kurukshetra. An Information and Search Service was inaugurated in conjunction with the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation with headquarters at Delhi.

The need for a Home for refugee orphans and destitute women being urgent, the Council is co-operating with the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation in starting such a Home in Delhi, and will also help in finding funds for the institution when it is set up. The Council's constituent bodies have received generous gifts or offers from philanthropic organisations overseas such as the Christian Council of America, the Red Cross Societies of Britain, America, Canada, Australia, South Africa,

France and Belgium, the League of Red Cross Societies and the International Missionary Council. Other offers cover medical and relief supplies, financial aid and personnel.

A review of the work of the United Council for Relief and Welfare shows that the various constituting bodies have exerted themselves to the utmost in co-operating in a gigantic task with results worthy of their great humanitarian motives. The Indian Red Cross Society provided medical supplies and comforts in many instalments to hospitals and refugee camps in Delhi and East Punjab. The Society's Director of Maternity and Child Welfare Bureau has been doing valuable work at Kurukshetra in the organisation of health services for women and children. The Red Cross effort was supplemented by the work of the St. John organisation whose Brigade personnel numbering over two hundred from various parts of India were drafted up to the end of November for duty at Delhi, Amritsar, Jullundur, Kurukshetra, Lahore and other camps in the Punjab. The National Christian Council made a very significant contribution, including medical relief to refugees with convoys in and from West Punjab, hospital information, postal arrangements, booking of air and rail passages, occupational therapy, helping in the provision of water, transport, employment as well as contact with villages and the distribution of special food products and clothes.

Valuable service has been given by students of the Y.W.C.A. Social Training School at Kingsway and Purana Qila camps in Delhi and Kurukshetra where they made the fullest use of the opportunity to train themselves in their professional field work. The W.V.S. volunteers have taken a special interest in the Muslim refugees at the Purana Qila and the Humayun's Tomb camps in Delhi. The Rotary Club has been assisting refugees to obtain suitable employment. The contribution of the Friends Service Unit and the Boy Scouts Association is vast and varied and includes first aid, postal and other facilities and provision of medical teams in the Punjab. The scouts gave excellent service in Delhi as messengers during the emergency. The Congress Relief Committee and Ramakrishna Mission, which had been running camps for the refugees even before the Council came into being, have continued their activities with redoubled zeal and energy. The Hindustan Scouts gave a good account of themselves in the refugee camps. Volunteers from the Y.M.C.A., students from Western House Hostel, the College of Nursing and Lady Reading Health School have done remarkable work in the Delhi Camps.

The UCRW has received about 500 offers of part or whole time voluntary help. The majority being for work in Delhi, a number of doctors and welfare workers from among the applicants have been posted for duty in Delhi and East Punjab.

The activities of the Council included medical and welfare services in the camps, along marching columns of refugees, in hospitals, through mobile and static dispensaries and at first aid posts. These services vary from preventive inoculations, various stages of medical care, health and general welfare, to the longer term needs of occupational, recreational and educational facilities for the unfortunate victims of mass migration. The Council has had to face many formidable difficulties of which transport was the acutest, but, thanks to the co-operation of the Army authorities, this hurdle has been largely overcome by the twelve trucks with drivers placed at the Council's disposal both in the capital and the various camps outside.

Delhi Citizens' Generosity

On September 20, late in the afternoon, the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation received an urgent demand for food from evacuation authorities in East Punjab. Two convoys of non-Muslims, one 30,000 and another 60,000 were stranded and desperately in need of food. Through the initiative and resources of local officers, the Ministry was able to secure 280 maunds of chapaties and other foodstuffs some of which were flown in two R.I.A.F. planes in the morning of September 21 and the balance was flown in the afternoon, to give immediate relief to the stranded convoys. Were it not for the most willing co-operation and generosity of the general public who assisted at very short notice in procuring this large amount of food, it would not have been possible to solve this immediate relief problem.

APPENDIX

Nearly 5 million non-Muslims have already crossed over to India, and approximately a million more are awaiting migration from Western Pakistan. The number of non-Muslims left in Sind is about 800,000. There are also about 50,000 in West Punjab and the N.W.F.P. Moreover, in Bahawalpur there is a large population of non-Muslims, including those who have been forcibly converted, awaiting evacuation.

Sind

Before the rioting in Karachi on January 6, there was a large movement of Hindus and Sikhs out of Sind. This evacuation received impetus when the disturbances broke out. In spite of the Sind Government's apparently strong action to restore order after the Karachi riots, Hindu and Sikh opinion is unanimous that it will not be possible for the authorities to create conditions of safety for non-Muslims. In the circumstances the Government of India has decided to give all possible facilities for evacuation from Sind.

The total population of Hindus and Sikhs in Sind was 12½ lakhs in 1941 and it was estimated to be 14 lakhs at the time of partition. Of this about 478,000 had left Sind up to the first week of January. It has been estimated by the Indian High Commissioner in Pakistan that out of the remaining non-Muslims, nearly 600,000 desire evacuation to India immediately.

To cope with the fresh influx of refugees from Sind, the Government of India have set up an organisation in the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation, under the charge of a Director-General. He is assisted by a Director of Evacuation and Movement and a Director of Relief (Transit Camps and Supplies), at Delhi, and by a Director of Evacuation each for Rajputana, Kathiawar, Bombay and C.P. with headquarters at Marwar, Rajkot, Bombay and Nagpur respectively. With the setting up of this Directorate-General, the work of evacuation from Sind as well as of reception and temporary shelter for refugees has been taken well in hand.

The Directorate-General proposes to evacuate between 3,000 and 4,000 by rail a week. Arrangements are being made with the Sind Government for running special trains from various rail-heads within the province to Karachi. It has been arranged with the Jodhpur Railway to run special trains from

Hyderabad or Mirpurkhas to Marwar Junction and Pali where transit camps have been set up with accommodation, food and other facilities.

Refugees arriving at Marwar and Pali will be sent by special train to other transit camps at Ahmedabad, Ratlam and Khandwa. From Ahmedabad refugees will be sent to various relief camps in the Bombay presidency. From Ratlam and Khandwa they will be sent to relief camps in the Central Provinces and Central India. All refugees desiring Government help will be expected to go to these relief camps, but those who have their own means are free to travel to destinations of their choice at their own expense, except to certain areas which are already full.

Arrangements have been made for the movement of 10,000 to 15,000 refugees a week by sea from Karachi, mainly to Bombay and partly to Kathiawar ports. At Bombay food will be served to refugees on arrival and they will be sent to relief camps.

In Kathiawar arrangements have been made for the housing of about 35,000 more refugees. Apart from those who are to be kept in relief camps or otherwise accommodated in Kathiawar within the above arrangements, other refugees will not be sent to Kathiawar but will be diverted to Bombay.

The Government of India is also examining possibilities of opening other camps for Sindhi refugees wherever possible, in Rajputana as well as in Madras, Mysore or Central India.

N.W.F.P.

The evacuation of non-Muslims from Peshawar, Mardan, Kohat and Parachinar is partially complete. Some abducted and converted persons in pockets round about Peshawar, Mardan and Dera Ismail Khan have also been recovered and arrangements have been made for their early evacuation by train.

The number of non-Muslims awaiting evacuation from Bannu and D. I. Khan is about 10,000. Nearly 2,000 more are stranded in the various States in the province. In addition, there is a large number of abducted women and non-Muslims who have been converted, both in the Frontier Province and in tribal territory.

While trains are being arranged to evacuate non-Muslims from large concentrations in Bannu and D. I. Khan, available civil aircrafts are being pressed into service to pick up non-Muslims rescued from "pockets", specially women and children. These planes will touch at Peshawar, Risalpur, Kohat, Bannu and D. I. Khan.

The N.W.F.P. Government have agreed to the evacuation of non-Muslims from Bannu and D. I. Khan, but negotiations are still in progress regarding the evacuation of non-Muslims from the various States in the Frontier Province. There are nearly 1,000 non-Muslims in Amb State and about the same number in Swat, Dhir and Chitral. In Chitral where there are about 400 non-Muslims, evacuation will have to wait for a few months as the Pass is closed due to heavy snow.

West Punjab

The Military Evacuation Organisation (India) continues to evacuate non-Muslims from pockets by motor transport.

From January 23 to February 7, about 5,204 were evacuated by motor transport to India. Among them were 218 rescued abducted women and children. In West Punjab, non-Muslims brought from pockets to central camps during the same period were: Lyallpur, 593; Sheikhpura, 2,191; Gujranwala, 748; Sargodha, 1,353; Montgomery, 657; Lahore, 57; and Multan, 127. A small foot column from West Punjab crossed over to India in January. This comprised over 400 non-Muslims from Arifwala, with their camels and other belongings.

Bahawalpur

From Bahawalpur nearly 1,50,000 non-Muslims have reached India safely. But there are still about 70,000 awaiting evacuation, besides a large number of those who have been forcibly converted. In January, Dr. Sushila Nayar and Mr. Leslie Cross, at the instance of Gandhiji, paid a visit to the State and it is expected that as a result of this visit evacuation from Bahawalpur will shortly start in an organised manner.

RECOVERY OF WOMEN

Concerted efforts continue to be made for the recovery of abducted women and forcibly converted persons. On December 6, a conference of the representatives of both the Dominions was held at Lahore and it was decided that both the Dominions should make special efforts to recover these women. More than 25,000 enquiries about abducted women who are in Pakistan have been received by the Women's Section of the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation. The number, however, is believed to be higher than this. Of these nearly 2,500 have already been rescued.

Apart from the unhelpful attitude of Pakistan's local officials, the main obstruction facing our rescue parties today is the fear harboured by the majority of abducted Hindu women

that they may not be received again into the fold of their society, and the Muslims being aware of this misgiving have played upon the minds of these unfortunate women to such an extent that many of them are reluctant to come away from their captors back to India. It has been mutually agreed between the two Dominions that in such cases they should be 'forcibly' evacuated.

Gandhiji's appeal to Indians that "those Hindu and Sikh sisters who have been abducted, molested or converted by Muslims should be received with open arms and given the same place which they occupied before in society", reinforced by similar statements by the Prime Minister and other Indian leaders has brought about an appreciable change for the better in the attitude of the people.

Transit Homes for the recovered women have been established at Jullundur, Amritsar, Kurukshetra and Delhi. The Transit Home in Delhi will accommodate nearly 400 women. There are at present in this Home 100 destitute and unprotected women and children. This home is primarily for giving shelter, but work of various types will be taught and corporate community life will be emphasized.

The Marriage Bureau set up by the Women's Section of the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation have registered a large number of men willing to marry destitute refugee girls.

HOUSING AND RELIEF

Efforts to provide shelter to the refugees are everywhere gathering momentum.

Delhi

Since the Prime Minister's assurance to refugees that "none shall lack accommodation" extensive facilities have been provided for the shelterless in Purana Qila. Nearly 10,000 have been accommodated there.

About 200,000 people will be accommodated in the townships which are to be built south and west of New Delhi. Plans are being drawn up by the architects and the area, which will comprise some 3,500 acres of building ground, has been surveyed. The townships will be self-contained. Each will have a civic centre, shops, markets, schools, in addition to residential accommodation of different kinds. In time to come these little towns will be joined to New Delhi.

East Punjab

East Punjab has decided to build about 4,000 new houses in 12 East Punjab towns at a cost of Rs. 2 crores. They will be of sand-cement slabs on the American model and will provide roofed accommodation for nearly 100,000 refugees. The Government will build 50 per cent of the houses and the rest will be built by private enterprise. The building activity will be confined to the following towns.

Town.	No. of Refugees.	No. of houses.
Jullundur	12,000	500
Ludhiana	12,000	500
Jagadhri	12,000	500
Karnal	12,000	500
Panipat	12,000	500
Sonepat	5,000	200
Gurgaon	5,000	200
Palwal	5,000	200
Rewari	10,000	300
Rohtak	5,000	200
Moga or Khanna	5,000	200
Pathankot	5,000	200

In East Punjab the latest figures of refugees in camps about the middle of February were : Ambala, 21,675 ; Karnal, 35,093 ; Panipat, 15,932 ; Gurgaon, 3,349 ; Rohtak, 64,080 ; Hissar, 8,015 ; Amritsar, 54,194 ; Ferozepore, 15,100 ; Ludhiana, 25,209 ; Gurdaspur, 13,849 ; and Jullundur, 39,097.

Amenities continue to be provided in camps wherever possible. The Kasu Begu camp, near Ferozepore, has now been fitted with electric light and hand pumps. There is also a well-equipped medical section run by the Camp Medical Officer, assisted by a band of nurses.

Kurukshetra Camp

The Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation has taken measures to eliminate forced idleness among refugees at the Kurukshetra camp by establishing a cottage industry and training centre on an elaborate scale. The training to be imparted will be so devised as to enable a trainee to earn his livelihood at the end of the training period, or to continue further training with a view to becoming a skilled craftsman.

The expenditure sanctioned for equipment, plant, machinery and other accessories is Rs. 500,000. Each trainee will be given a stipend up to a maximum of Rs. 10 per month. Sanction has also been accorded for utilising trained men of the Centre for productive purposes and for granting to such persons as remuneration up to a maximum of Rs. 100 per month in the form of daily wages.

The proposed arts and crafts to be taught in the camp are : brick-laying, carpentry, smithy, fitter's trade, duco painting, welding, tin and copper smithy, motor mechanics, spinning, weaving, knitting and hosiery, soap-making, tailoring, dairying, confectionery, poultry-raising, leather work, embroidery, pottery, basket and toy-making and printing.

Recreation

To help keep up morale, each camp will organise amusement parties from amongst the refugees themselves. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has been approached to provide travelling cinema shows and newsreels.

Cloth and Garments

The Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation has now extended the distribution of blankets, etc., to the refugees from Sind, besides those already in the various camps in East Punjab and Kurukshetra. Blankets, *razais* and garments are also sent to new outposts of refugee concentrations like Marwar, Rajkot, Bombay, Madras, Jaipur, Jodhpur and Bikaner. Consignments continue to be sent to East Punjab and Kashmir.

Medical Help

The Ministry of Health has sent a large consignment of medical stores for refugee centres. Over 41,000 lbs. of medical stores, over 1,000,000 doses of calf lymph, 36,000 c.c.s. of T.A.B. and 5,000 c.c.s. of plague doses were despatched to East Punjab, Kurukshetra, Delhi, Kashmir and Marwar.

Special attention is being paid to the refugee camp now established at Marwar for Sind refugees. One doctor has been appointed for this camp and a D.D.T. squad has been sent by the Malaria Institute of India.

INTER-DOMINION AGREEMENTS

The West and East Punjab Governments have issued Evacuee (Administration of Property) Ordinances under which all the property of evacuees is vested in a Custodian and other provincial Governments concerned are taking similar action.

As regards agricultural lands a sub-committee will take up the matter with the Pakistan Government when the question of the exchange of urban property will also be discussed.

Savings Bank Accounts

Agreement was recently arrived at between India and Pakistan that claims in respect of Savings Bank Accounts standing open at post offices in Pakistan and postal Cash, Defence Savings and National Savings Certificates registered there can be made at all head and sub-post offices in India.

Claims can also be made by depositors or holders of certificates who have already applied for transfer of their accounts or certificates but have not received back their pass books or certificates.

Depositors and holders who have their pass books or certificates in their possession need not submit claims, but action for the transfer of their deposits and holdings will be taken by post offices as the pass books and certificates are presented.

As a result of discussions between the representatives of the Governments of Pakistan and India, West and East Punjab and the Reserve Bank and other banks, arrangements have now been made for facilitating resumption of business by banks which have closed their offices owing to disturbances, or which find themselves unable to carry on their normal functions owing to paucity of staff.

The West Punjab Government have agreed to make all arrangements necessary for the protection and housing of the non-Muslim staff of banks in Lahore and also to provide guards at banks' premises in Lahore at the expense of the banks.

Notice has been taken of complaints made by evacuees in both Dominions about cheques and matured fixed deposit receipts being returned by banks on flimsy grounds. In order to avoid distress to the evacuee depositors and in their own interests, banks have been requested to desist from such practices and to co-operate by giving all possible facilities to their constituents. To facilitate transfer of accounts from one Dominion to the other, it has been suggested that each bank should designate one office in India and one in Pakistan for clearing claims for inter-Dominion transfer of accounts. Both Dominions have agreed not to place any restrictions on transfer of accounts or remittances of funds by banks. Only in the case

of accounts of companies which continue to function in Pakistan, the Pakistan Government has stipulated that their previous permission should be obtained.

Insurance Policy Holders

With a view to ameliorating the difficulties of refugee holders of insurance policies, the Government of India have addressed letters to insurers doing life insurance business and provident societies requesting that such refugees should be given generous treatment. A favourable response to this request has been received by the Government of India from insurance and provident societies.

The difficulties of policy-holders which prevented them from paying their premia have been pointed out by the Government who have requested that such policy-holders be given the benefit of having the surrender value adjusted in each policy towards the payment of outstanding premia and interest calculated on overdue premia at the lowest practicable rates. In cases where, owing to inadequate surrender value, the policy had lapsed, the company should be prepared on application to revive the policy at the previous rates of premium for full sums assured without medical examination.

PROGRESS OF REFUGEE REHABILITATION

Financial Assistance for Urban Refugees

The Scheme of financial assistance for urban refugees is now complete with the setting up of the Rehabilitation Finance Administration, which has been authorised to sanction loans from Rs. 5,000 to Rs. 100,000. According to the legislation passed by the Indian Parliament, the Administration is empowered to grant loans to the extent of Rs. seven crores. It can also rediscount bills of exchange to the extent of Rs. one crore.

Over and above this, the Administration is empowered to guarantee to banks and similar lending institutions against losses to the extent of 50 per cent in any individual case in respect of loans and advances that these institutions may grant to refugees. The total resources at the disposal of the Administration will be Rs. 10 crores.

So far as limits on loans to individuals are concerned, it has been laid down that the loans advanced by the Administration will be Rs. 5,000 and above, but not exceeding Rs. 100,000 to any one single individual or party. On money advanced to refugees, the Administration is not permitted to

charge anything more than six per cent by way of interest and payment of the loans granted will be for a period not exceeding ten years.

The Administration will keep in close touch with Provincial Governments and other bodies engaged in rehabilitation and, as far as possible, lend money or grant assistance to individuals who might be recommended by Provincial Governments and other bodies, though the Administration will not be precluded from granting loans directly to individuals who may not be so recommended.

Rehabilitation Loans

The Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation has likewise sanctioned advances to the maximum limit of Rs. 5,000 which may be granted to traders, shopkeepers and those persons wishing to start their own workshops or cottage industries. In the case of doctors, including dentists, radiologists, *vaid*s, *hakims* and homœopaths and legal practitioners, the maximum limit has been fixed at Rs. 3,000. Displaced persons wishing to buy a *tonga* and a horse to ply the vehicle on hire in Delhi may be granted loans up to Rs. 1,000. Other displaced persons are covered by the general loan scheme under which the maximum limit has been fixed at Rs. 500.

These loans are available all over India and in the Indian States, and it has been laid down that the grant of loan should be confined to displaced persons who decide to settle finally in a particular town or place and who can be fitted into the economy of the area. The advances will be paid by the authorities of the district where the displaced person decides to settle finally.

Those who require loans will be asked to produce proof of their having been registered as refugees and an affidavit to the effect that they have not previously received a similar advance from any other source.

No Interest for First Year

The advance will be free of interest for the first year, but interest will be charged at three per cent for subsequent years. No recovery will be made in the first year. Instalments for repayment in the subsequent years will be fixed by the sanctioning authority in each case subject to the condition that the advance should be completely repaid within four years from the date it is given. Two sureties will be taken. If default is made in repayment of any instalment, the whole advance will become recoverable as arrears of land revenue.

The authorities will give every assistance to persons to whom loans are sanctioned to obtain the necessary equipment, raw materials, stock-in-trade, premises, so that the loan is utilised to the best advantage.

Doctors and Lawyers

To help doctors and lawyers, the Government of India have circulated to all Provinces and the larger Indian States particulars of refugee doctors with a view to absorbing them permanently. Some of the doctors have also been provided with employment in various refugee camps.

All Provincial Governments and Ministries of the Government of India have been requested to consider applications from displaced lawyers for suitable judicial and administrative posts for which they are eligible. The Ministry of States is also addressing the States to absorb lawyers in the same manner. Provincial High Courts are being approached to relax their rules in favour of refugee legal practitioners.

Harijan Rehabilitation

A Harijan Section has been set up by the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation to give prompt and adequate attention to the question of the relief and rehabilitation of Harijans. Besides the headquarters staff at Delhi, the Section will have a certain number of field units. In carrying out its duties the Section will work in consultation with Provincial and State Governments.

Rehabilitation and Development Board

Recently the Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, revealed in Parliament the Government's intention to set up a Rehabilitation and Development Board with a view to securing a speedy, effective and proper rehabilitation of refugees.

The Board will also consider schemes which give gainful employment, such as river valley schemes and development of ports. The Board will be for the whole of India and function in co-operation with Provincial Governments.

Provincial and State Governments will be invited to appoint liaison officers or to set up some other suitable agency to ensure effective collaboration. It is expected that the Board will concentrate on the development of smaller industries which can be developed almost immediately in townships. This Board will deal primarily with urban people.

Employment and Training

The total number of refugees registered at various Employment Exchanges and District Employment Offices between January 1 and January 15 was 11,844, out of which 1,203 were placed in employment.

Sanction has been accorded for another 1,081 seats in the technical centres at Jullundur, Ambala, Ferozepore, Ludhiana, Ajmer and Delhi, thus increasing the total number of seats to 2,272.

An All-India statement shows that up to January 15 in Delhi and Ajmer-Merwara 22,037 persons were registered and 1,239 placed in employment; in East Punjab 39,364 registered and 7,923 given employment; in West Bengal and Assam 40 registered and 3 given employment; in Bihar and Orissa 368 registered and 21 given employment; in Bombay 4,487 registered, 1,056 given employment; in the Central Provinces and Berar 747 registered, 91 given employment; in Madras 126 registered and 8 given employment; and in the United Provinces 8,899 registered and 1,428 placed in employment.

The following figures show the number of refugees registered in Employment Exchanges throughout India according to their occupational groups. These figures include 50,584 men and 1,395 women up to January 15 in Bihar and Orissa, Bombay, the Central Provinces and Berar, Delhi and Ajmer, East Punjab, Madras, the United Provinces and West Bengal and Assam.

Classification	Men	Women.
Technical	13,254	609
Clerical	23,907	592
Agricultural Labourers	229	29
Agriculturists not requiring own land	182	—
Domestic Workers	685	38
Unskilled factory workers	796	2
Outdoor labourers	1,718	32
Unskilled Government and office workers	5,815	50
Land colonists	479	—
Other assistants	48	—
Appointments Branch Standard	3,471	72

Urban Rehabilitation in East Punjab

The East Punjab Refugees' Rehabilitation (Loans and Grants) Ordinance provides that loans and grants may be made up to Rs. 5,000 and Rs. 500 respectively, to individual refugees or to firms or companies of refugees. Applications for loans are to be made to the Deputy Commissioner in whose jurisdiction a refugee intends to carry on his business or profession.

Loans and grants up to Rs. 2,000 and Rs. 250 respectively may be sanctioned by the Deputy Commissioner. Applications for bigger amounts will be forwarded by him to the Financial Commissioner, Rehabilitation.

Rural Resettlement

The number of refugees who have so far been settled on land in East Punjab under a planned scheme is about 20 lakhs. No definite figures are available of rural Hindus and Sikhs who came out of West Punjab. But it is roughly estimated that 13½ lakh Hindus and 12½ lakh Sikhs have come over to the Indian Union.

To meet the vast and varied problem of rural settlers, a well-knit organisation is being set up in East Punjab. For instance, in each district the Deputy Commissioner will be in charge of rehabilitation work. He will be assisted by one or two Revenue Assistants and a requisite number of *tehsildars*, *naib tehsildars*, *qanungos* and *patwaris*. Revenue staff in *tehsils* is being strengthened by additional appointments of 41 *tehsildars*, 82 *naib tehsildars*, 186 *qanungos* and 1,300 *patwaris*.

Garden Colonies

In order to absorb refugees in the fruit industry the East Punjab Government have decided to establish co-operative colonies of 500 to 1,500 acres each, with a total area of 10,000 acres and an average of about 1,000 acres per district. Normal allotment to each settler is to be 20 acres, but the area can be increased or decreased by the Selection Committee in individual cases.

Each settler is to place at least three-fourths of the area under fruit gardening, in accordance with the instructions of the Agriculture Department. All allottees will have to form themselves into co-operative societies in order to carry out, on a co-operative basis, all the horticultural operations like the growing of nursery plants of the most reliable and standard

varieties, watering, cultivation, spraying of trees to control pests, packing, grading and marketing of fruits, preservation, cold-storage, etc.

The scheme is open to both local persons and refugees, but preference will be given to refugees who possessed gardens in West Punjab. Every settler who is allotted land in the garden colony will have to surrender an equivalent area of land to the Government from his property. In the case of a refugee the area of land given in a garden colony would be deducted out of the land to which he would be entitled when he is given land vacated by Muslims on a permanent basis.

The Government will afford such financial and other assistance as they consider necessary. The refugees in garden colonies, however, will be entitled to the usual assistance given by the Government in the form of *taccavi* loans.

Co-operative Farming in U.P.

Further details are now available of the U.P. Government scheme for absorbing refugees on 10,000 acres of land in the Naini Tal Tarai region. The present plan envisages a system of co-operative farming so that co-operative enterprise may develop into "joint farm management".

No sub-letting or fragmentation will be allowed. The area will be divided into four farms of 1,500 acres each. For each colonist who settles on land, the Government of India will pay a subsidy of Rs. 500 and a similar sum will be paid by the Provincial Government.

In the initial stages all possible facilities will be given to the new settlers such as free fencing, use of tractors, building of roads, drainage, hospitals and water-supply. Short-term loans will be advanced and plans are also in hand to encourage industries in the area.

The U.P. Government has also made plans to absorb refugees in small and medium size industries in which both men and women will be employed. Special attention is being paid to sporting and allied industries. A number of firms having workshops in Sialkot in West Punjab are being helped to establish themselves in Meerut and Agra where they will undertake the manufacture of sporting and leather goods. Schemes of dairy and mixed farming are also being considered.

The manufacture of surgical apparatus, steel trunks, buckets, agricultural implements and domestic utensils is being taken up at Allahabad, Lucknow and Kanpur. Nine *Khadi*

centres for weaving, spinning and soap-making classes are shortly to be opened in various districts. Investigations among refugees have shown that 2,275 trained workers could take up spinning, embroidery, tailoring and oil-crushing industries. Nearly 1,100 persons are being trained to take up handloom, hosiery, mechanical, *gur* and sugar-making industries.

In other provinces and states also rehabilitation plans have reached an advanced stage of maturity.

Nation's Greatest Wealth

"Children are the nation's greatest wealth. There are thousands today who are homeless and orphans, there are thousands whose parents can no longer afford to give them the education they would ordinarily have given them. If some men and women can become fathers and mothers to these orphans it would mean a great deal to them. Personal affection and individual care can never be given as wholeheartedly in an institution. We shall also need workers, teachers in basic education, experts in handicrafts, psychologists, both men and women, to come forward and help to educate and train these girls and boys to become good citizens of the New India". (Extracts from a broadcast talk by Rajkumari Amrit Kaur.)

END.



YOU

can also help your Government to resettle millions uprooted from Pakistan for no fault of their own. They have to be saved from frustration, starvation and dishonour.

One of the most effective ways is to notify all vacancies whether in the factory or in the office to the nearest Employment Exchange.

